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INSIDE TODAY

19/FEATURES We're all TV diners

21/COMMENT Polly Toynbee cheers The End of Order

EDUCATION+ Help with homework Still getting what you want? Yeah, but only just



Mick Jagger on stage last night at Soldiers Field, Chicago, during the first performance of the Rolling Stones' year-long tour. Our Arts News Editor, David Lister, says that the world's greatest, longest-running rock'n' roll band very nearly failed to pull it off. Things were looking definitely dodgy for the first third of the show. The mustard

TODAY'S NEWS

Lawyers wrestle over Saudi nurses' fate

Lawyers are battling over blood money to prevent the beheading of Deborah Parry, one of the two nurses sentenced for murder in Saudi Arabia. A Saudi lawyer representing the families of the nurses said the brother of the victim had agreed a deal, although there was confusion last night over whether it had actually been signed. Page 3

\$9bn Salomon deal

Salomon Brothers, the investment bank that Tom Wolfe used as the model for his picaresque 1980s morality tale Bonfire of the Vanities, was bought yesterday by Travelers Group for a distinctly uncool \$9bn. The New York deal took London completely by surprise. It also sent shock waves through Wall Street, where Deryck Maughan, the new co-chief executive, is known as "Mr Integrity", and the model for Wolfe's "Masters of the Universe". Page 27

Keegan returns

An announcement is expected today that Kevin Keegan, known to Geordie fans as "the messiah", will return to football as chief executive of Fulham. Mohamed Al Fayed, the club's owner, wants to turn it into the "Manchester United of the south". Page 18

SEEN & HEARD

An alcoholic did not know he had carried out a robbery until he saw himself on a security video tape on relevision, Belfast Crown Court heard yesterday. William Nixon, 36, of Disraeli Street, Belfast, immediately surrendered himself to police and admicced robbing a filling station in Carrickfergus several weeks earlier. He pleaded guilty to robbing £250 from two women assistants using an Imitation firearm. Terence Mooney QC, defending, said Nixon, who was failed for two-and-a-half years, had already spent his benefit cheque on drink, and could be seen staggering during the crime. He left the shop saying "all the best" - and spent the proceeds on drink.



MEATHER The Eye, page 10 TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye. page 9

Web address: http://www.

Pollution deaths herald disaster in the making

An air poliution disaster of unprecedented breadth is unfolding in South-east Asia, caused by a combination of drought, the deliberate burning of land and explosive economic growth. Richard Lloyd Parry and Nicholas Schoon predict that it may be the shape of worse things to come.

People in South-east Asia are dying, and tens of thousands are suffering from breathing difficulties and illness caused by smog which has reached record levels and spread uncontrollably across six countries. Across huge areas of the Malaysian peninsula and the islands of Borneo and Sumatra the sun has been blocked out.

Three separate environmental problems, each serious in its own right, have combined to create an air-quality disaster on a huge scale. Suddenly, pollution has transformed itself from an irritating side-effect of rapid economic growth to a threat to an entire region's economy and public health.

The initial cause of the smog was the uncontrolled burning of brushwood and forests in parts of Indonesia and Malaysia. started by small farmers and plantation owners wanting to clear land.

These fires, along with accidental blazes, went out of control because of a continuing drought linked to the phenomenon of El Nino, a major fluctuation in the workings of the planet's climate which takes

The latest El Nino, which began six months ago, is particularly severe and may turn out to be the most destructive this century. Some climate scientists say that man-made global warming, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, is making the fluctuations more severe.

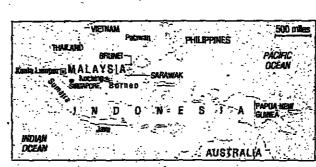
The third factor is the high levels of pollution in many of the region's towns and cities caused by fast-growing road traffic, fossil fuel power stations and industry operating with few pollution controls.

A senior Indonesian official admitted yesterday that two

In Sarawak, about 5,000 people are reported to be turning up at local hospitals every day, complaining of respiratory problems, and there has been panic buying of food and water supplies in anticipation of a possible evacuation.

In the Malaysian capital of Knala Lumpur, 75 US embassy staff and their families have been allowed to leave if they feel ill-effects from the smog. Those who remain will be rotated in and out of the country "to minimise any possible health effects".

The smog already covers most of Malaysia, Brunei, and



people had already died, and that more than 32,000 were afflicted with respiratory illnesses caused by the smog. Many more deaths are anticipated.

In Kuching, in the Malaysian province of Sarawak. schools, offices, factories and the international airport have been closed and a state of emergency has been declared after daytime visibility was reduced to a few yards. An Air Pollutant Index (API) of between 100 and 200 is considered "unbealthy", while anything hetween 300 and 500 is "hazardous". In Kuching, it was 651 yesterday, down from a record

Singapore, as well as parts of Papua New Guinea. Recently. south-western winds have driven it as far as the Philippines: on the southern island of Palawan. fishermen have been confined to harbour by the re-

duced visibility. The smoke is hampering efforts to bring relief to victims of a severe drought and food shortage affecting tribal people of New Guinea. Missionary planes carrying relief supplies have been unable to land in parts of the remote Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, where some 250 people have already died of starvation and cholera. Monsoon rains are desper-

ately needed, to douse the flames and wash out the smog. The use of cloud-seeding planes to create rain has made a small difference over Kuala Lumpur, and the Malaysian government says it is now studying plans to spray water from the top of tall buildings to dis-

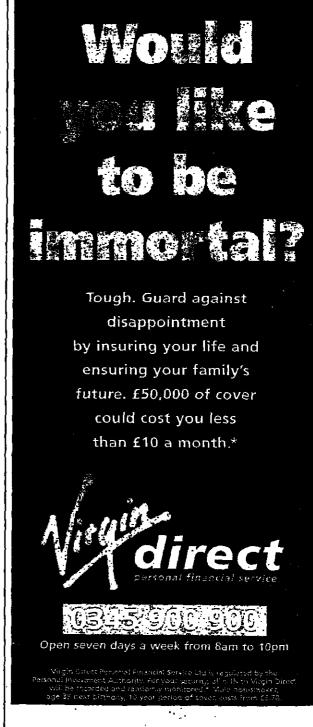
solve some of the pollutants. The region's leaders have plenty else to preoccupy them. including a financial crisis which has caused their currencies and the stock exchange to plummet in value.

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, attending the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meeting in Hong Kong, said foreign fund managers had expressed worries about the smog affecting the already unstable financial markets.

Hundreds of cities and towns in developing countries now suffer pollution levels which are as bad or worse than the lethal "pea-souper" smogs that London and other big Western cities suffered before the 1960s. Millions of lives are shortened by heart and lung disease as a result.

While some developing countries, such as Mexico, have begun strenuous efforts to curb their pollution problems, the disaster in South-east Asia shows that air quality is now a cross-border problem.

Countries in South-east Asia will have to co-operate and sign treaties to cut the overall burden of pollution and clean the air, as has been done in North America and Europe. Even Singapore, with relatively low pollution levels of its own and an income level higher than that of the UK, has been unable to escape the fall-out.





2/BRIEFING



5/HEALTH NEWS

A new birth-counselling organisation to rival the National Childbirth Trust

6/LIB DEM CONFERENCE

7/MEDIA NEWS

Private Eye readers have rallied to safeguard the finances of the satirical magazine after big newsagents banned it for publishing articles deemed inappropriate in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

8/NEWS

Ministers have agreed that the annual change of number plates for cars will now take place twice a year, in spring and autumn.

13/EDUCATION NEWS

France is to crack down on brutal initiation ceremonies at the country's most prestigious schools as tales of torture and sexual assault embarrass

15/CULTURE

A West Country businessman has caused a storm by trying to patent the name of St Boniface, a local Saxon monk. He may well make a fortune since Boniface could become the patron saint of Europe.

16/SUICIDE BOMBERS

The Israelis have sealed off the village they believe to be the home of four suicide bombers who killed 20 people in Jerusalem. Patrick Cockburn evaded the Israeli security ring in search of the bombers' fam-

EYE ON FRIDAY

Nastassia Kinski: A sex goddess grows up

U2 on tour in Sarajevo: A report from the front-line

King Lear: First night



TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars) Austria (schillings) Belgium (francs) Canada (\$) Cyprus (pounds) Denmark (kroner) France (francs) Greece (drachmei) Hong Kong (\$)

Ireland (punts)

Italy (lira) Japan (yen) Malta (pounds) 3.148 11.39 Netherlands (guilders) Norway (kroner) 10.73 Portugal (escudos) Switzerland (francs) 267446 1.5769



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PEOPLE



Woman footballer 'humiliated' in a male world

The male-dominated world of football came under worst thing is the lack of women coaches and the fire for alleged sex discrimination yesterday as the . state of the women's game." Football Association faced its first industrial tribunal complaint from would-be coach Vanessa Hardwick. The 32-year-old PE teacher was refused an advanced coaching licence at the end of a course, but claims that former players from clubs like Liverpool and West Ham passed despite getting worse marks. She launched the potentially mould-breaking complaint after FA assessors branded her coaching skills "naïve and schoolboy-like."

Miss Hardwick, from Ickenham, west London, is only one of three women to hold an intermediate licence. She is an FA county coach for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire and plays for Burnham

She needs an advanced licence to coach at the highest level, and wants to work in the US. "It's a male world dominated by men telling male jokes and I was excluded," she told the London North industrial tribunal yesterday on the opening day of

the Equal Opportunities Commission-backed case. "I felt and still feel humiliated by the failure. The

Elizabeth Slade, counsel for the FA, told the tribunal: "Those who go on this course want to coach" football at a very high level. That includes coaching in the Premiership and for a national team. In order to obtain that licence, the highest standard of skill in practice needs to be demonstrated."

Kamesh Bahl, the EOC's chairwoman, said: "We want to see fair play. We want women to have the same opportunity to participate in sport as men. "

Miss Hardwick told the tribunal that the course damaged her self-esteem and confidence, "The course was physically and emotionally demanding and not being one of the boys made it more intimidating and stressful - not being in with innuendoes and jokes. The case is the second involving football. In 1995 the EOC backed a successful claim by Georgina Christoforou, who wanted to become an assistant referce, against the South East Counties Football "League. Rugby, squash, boxing and pool have likewise each been successfully sued by women.

Terry Marsh acquitted of student grant fraud

Terry Marsh, the former champi- action as regards a breach of conon boxer, emerged triumplant fidentiality? he said. from a criminal trial for the second time yesterday and promptly invited the jury out for a celebratory drink.

Mr Marsh, 39, was acquitted at Southwark Crown Court of making a fraudulent application for a university grant. The jury took just 15 minutes to clear him of furnishing false information to the London Borough of Tower

Mr Marsh, who stood down as a Liberal Democrat candidate, because of the charges, said that he intended to report the council to the local government ombudsman. "There could be a civil

In 1990, Mr Marsh was cleared

of attempting to murder his for- ". mer promoter, Frank Warren. He began studying for his first degree while in prison on remand.

At this week's trial, the prosecution argued that Mr Marsh deliberately omitted from his application form the fact that he had received a grant for the earlier degree from Essex Council: But he told the jury that he had believed that he was entitled to the second grant of £9,428. When he realised his mistake, he contacted the authority to point it out and asked to take a Higher National



UPDATE

SOCIETY

Scottish prison branded a disgrace

Scotland's largest prison, which is running at 51 per cent over capacity, have been criticised as a "national disgrace", in a report published yesterday. The chronic overcrowding at Glasgow's Barlinnie Prison was highlighted by Clive Fairweather, Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland. The report said the overcrowding was "pervading almost every part of the prison and its regime" and that it had "health and hygiene implications".

He said: "It is nothing short of a national disgrace that over the years so many have had to endure the conditions resulting from the constant mismatch created between the finite number of cells available and a bur-

geoning prison population ... " The prison inspector hinted that more bail beds, supervised attendance orders, and community service orders, would ease the problem at the prison But governor Roger Houchin said the report "misrepresented and ignored the facts". He argued: "I am not prepared ... simply to let go unchallenged a degree of licence with the facts that misrepresents the

considerable achievements of my staff in delivering a quality of service of which they and the public can be proud."



TECHNOLOGY

Self-destruct videos save return trip

A new Digital Video Disc that self destructs after two days could put an end to the trek back to the video shop to return a film. Specially-designed video machines will time the high-tech discs as soon as they start to play and the film comes on.

Once they reach the two-day limit, the disc automatically refuses to play and can be thrown away.

The American-based Digital Video Express consortium (Divx) wants to replace familiar video tapes with the limited-life discs, New Scientist reports this week. The two-day discs will cost less than £3 - almost five times less than the Digital Video Discs which already exist. The new technology has been given a cautious welcome by the big film companies who fear it will be easy to make pirate copies of films from the discs. So, to protect them against the threat, the films will all be scrambled and a special code will be needed to access them.

Rail firms 'put customers last'

It is too easy for privatised rail companies to claim bonuses for good performance and too difficult for passengers to claim compensation for bad service, according to research published yesterday.

And privatisation has not rid the industry of the "customers last" philosophy which allegedly dogged the nationalised British Rail, says the Consumers' Association report Signal Failures - The Regulation of Rail. Author Phil Evans calls for a new Strategic Rail Authority to act as

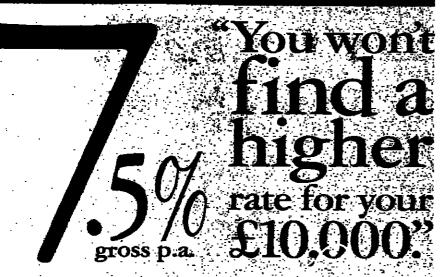
an industry watchdog, saying the Passenger's Charter which is supposed to protect consumers' rights is seen by many as little more than a "pretty marketing tool". The report calls for simplified complaints procedures and an increase in compensation levels to reflect more fairly the discomfort and inconvenience caused to passengers by overcrowding, ageing rolling stock and inaccurate fare and timetable information.

And it criticises the massive incentive payouts made by the rail regulators, which last year paid train companies £13.3m more in bonuses for punctuality and reliability than it took from them in fines for poor per-

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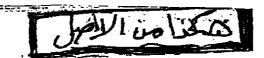


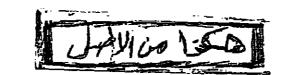
by Chris Priestley

ZITS

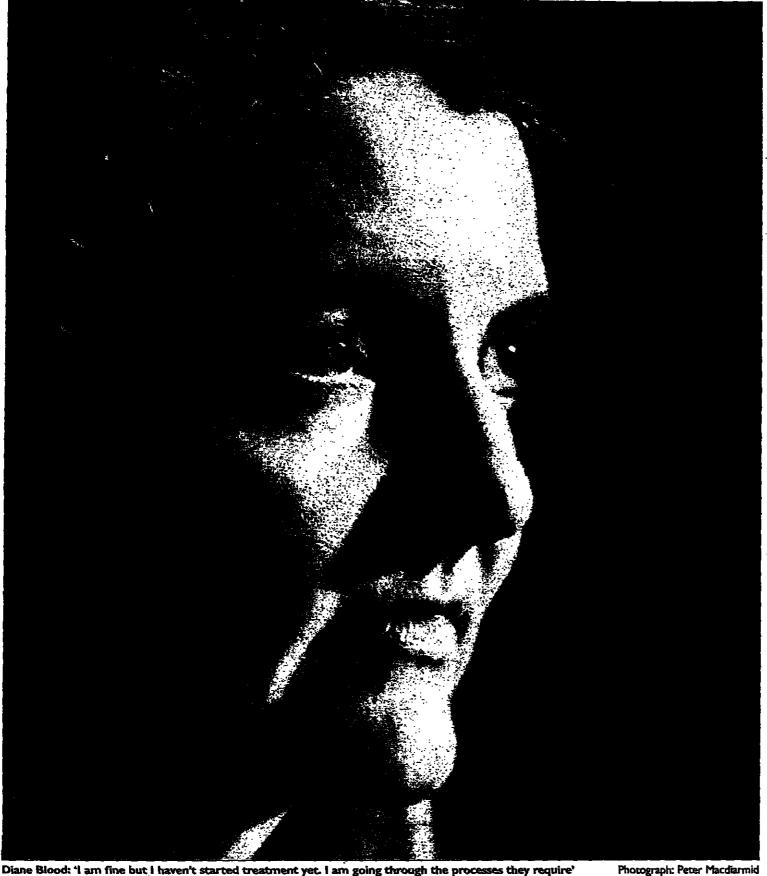
by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







3/LEADING STORIES



Six months on, why am I kept waiting to conceive my dead husband's baby?

Diane Blood's treatment to conceive her dead husband's child has still not started more than six months after the historic court ruling allowing her to take his frozen sperm to a clinic in Belgium for in vitro fertilisation. Jeremy Lourance, Health Editor, spoke to her on the day the Government issued a consultation document on changing the law.

This has been a difficult year for Diane Blood. The 33-year-old widow thought her battle for the right to bear her dead husband's child was won last February when the Appeal Court in effect forced the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to allow her to seek fertility treatment abroad.

But having persuaded the courts of the justice of her case she has since faced the equally difficult task of convincing the doctors in the Belgian fertility clinic where she is seeking treatment that it would be right to go-ahead.

Yesterday, she was putting a brave face on the delay: "Everything is trundling along very slowly. I am fine and well and happy but I haven't started treatment yet. I am going through the processes that they require in Belgium." She said the clinic, at the Free University of Brussels, required patients to undergo counselling before treatment began, as in

clinic decides whether to offer more difficult than most people treatment taking account of realise, Sheila McLean, author the welfare of the child. It is up of the review and professor of to the individual doctors to decide who they treat and who Glasgow University said yesterthey don't. I am still going day. "When I started doing this. through that process,"

clinic by her doctor in Britain of the consultation period is that after the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority it would be possible to do but we ruled that sperm taken from her husband while he lay in a coma before he died from meningitis had been removed without written consent and it would be against the law for her to use it for treatment in Britain. When she applied to export the frozen sperm to Belgium, the authority at first refused but later relented after intervention of the Appeal Court.

At the time of the case, Paul De Vroey, clinical director of the Centre for Reproductive Medicine at the Brussels Free had they become law." University, said there was no guarantee that Mrs Blood would be treated. He said she would be interviewed and would receive counselling and her request would then be considered by the clinical team before going to the ethics committee for the final decision.

The case provoked widespread criticism of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which was accused of being "callous and pedantic", and the last government ordered a review of the law. Yesterday, the first stage in that review, a consultation document setting out the options for change and their consequences, was published by the health department. At present the law requires written consent to the tomatic right to treatment. The eggs) and changing it would be gue that it is informed consent."

law and othics in medicine at I did not realise how complex it Ms Blood was referred to the would be. If the view at the end there should be a change then

> would need to be very clear about what principles should operate and what interests we are trying to protect." Two bills were introduced following the Diane Blood case - one by the fertility pioneer Lord Winston - which sought to soften the rigid requirement for written consent by qualifying it with the word "usually" or "nor-

mally". Both bills were later withdrawn but the report notes that they "would undoubtedly have had wider implications Yesterday Professor Mc-Lean said such an amendment would mean someone or some body would have to decide which conceptions were to be allowed to go ahead. "What tests

thorised to make it?" she said. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority yesterday welcomed the review but warned against opening the door to cases which have been allowed in other countries

would we use to make that judg-

ment and who would be au-

such as the United States. A spokesman said: "In other countries parents of children in their early teens who have been knocked down by a car have demanded and received their sperm or eggs for storage or future fertilisation. In this Britain. "You do not have an au- removal of gametes (sperm or kind of case it is difficult to ar-

_awyers argue over 'blood money' for Saudi nurses

Saudi Arabia's ambassador reacted furiously yesterday to Britain's criticism of the sentence of 500 lashes handed down to a nurse accused of murder. Steve Boggan says that while lawyers and politicians are turning up the heat, a second nurse accused of the killing awaits her

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iterior save return

THE STREETS LAST

The British nurses accused of murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia were caught in a furious row over "blood money" yesterday as the diplomatic argument over plans to flog one of them escalated.

Lucille McLauchlan, 31, was visited in prison by one of her lawyers and told of an Islamic court's decision to sentence her to 500 lashes and eight years in jail. Her co-accused Deborah Parry, 38, still awaits news of her fate, but claims that a lawyer's "trick" would make it impossible for her to be beheaded were rejected last night by Islamic scholars.

While lawyers for both sides were arguing, the Saudi ambassador to Britain, Dr Ghazi Algosabil attacked criticism of his country's justice system and those who sought to "demean" a. "We do not propose to change any country's judicial system and we will not allow any country to change our system,

On Tuesday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, angered the Saudis by denouncing the threat of flogging as "wholly unacceptable in the modern

Foreign Office sources said diplomats were busy working in the background to defuse tension between Britain and Saudi Arabia in advance of Mr Cook's meeting with Prince Sand, the Saudi foreign minister, in New York tomorrow.

The blood money row began early yesterday after lawyers for both sides held a meeting in Adelaide. That concluded with a joint statement saying that both sets of Australian lawyers - those representing Frank Gilford, brother of the murdered nurse Yvonne Gilford, and those representing the accused - had agreed that Mr Gilford had not waived his rights to demand the death penalty. Under Sharia law, only he can have the senience commuted.

The meeting was held in response to claims by Salah al-Hejailan, the nurses' Saudi lawyer, that he had "tricked" Mr Gilford into waiving his rights by persuading him to enter into negotiations over reparations, or blood money.

"Under Saudi law ... once you talk about money in any way, you cannot again talk about the death sentence," said Mr al-Hejailan. "He has signed an agreement which is with the British Commissioner in Australia. [Mr Gillord's] lawyers do not understand Saudi law. If you like, I have tricked them out of the option of a death penalty."

He claimed that Mr Gilford and the nurses had signed an agreement under which a trust fund would be set up in his sister's name to establish a children's hospital and a further £290,000 would be paid to Mr Gilford. Unconfirmed reports put the total package at £750,000. It is believed that a number of anonymous benefactors have pledged the lion's

Ms Gilford, 55, was stabbed 13 times, bludgeoned and suffocated in her room at the King Fahd military medical complex in Dhahran last December.

office in Saudi told The Independent that a copy of the blood money agreement was being held there in a safe.

Mr Gilford at his home in

A source in Mr al-Hejailan's However, the claims brought a swift and angry denial from



Frank Gilford, the victim's brother, has not waived right to demand death penalty

Jamestown, South Australia, A statement issued by Michael Abbott QC, and John Keen for Mr Gilford, and by Dick Whit-ington QC and Michael Burnett for the nurses, said: "Both parties confirmed that the comments attributed to Mr Salah Al-Hejailan [that Mr Gilford] had in any waived his rights as an heir under Saudi law were wrong ... Mr Gilford has not waived any rights he may have." The British Consul in Aus-

tralia refused to confirm that the commissioner was holding an agreement, although the Foreign Office in London said it had been aware of negotiations and had encouraged them.

Mr al-Hejailan insisted that an agreement was in existence. However, Islamic scholars in the UK rejected his claims that it would render a death sentence impossible. Neither scholar would be named, but agreed negoniations can continue until agreement is made or a death 'sentence carried out.

News of the latest developments were passed to the two nurses yesterday by Michael Dark, Mr al-Hejailan's partner, at the Central Prison in Dammam. William Patey, the consul general, is expected to visit the women on Sunday, while Baroness Symons, minister for consular relations. spoke to both families yesterday. Ann and Stan McLauchlan, from Dundee, were arranging to fly out to their daughter yesterday.

The Saudi ambassador's outburst came in response to Mr Cook's comments, the reaction of the British media and accusations levelled at the Saudi justice system by Labour's Ann Clwyd, a long time campaigner for human rights.

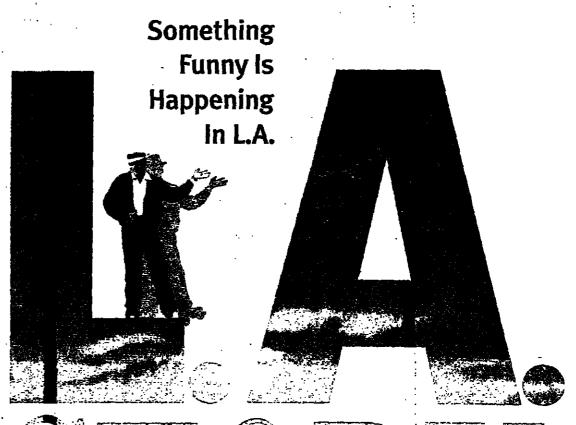
Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, she said: These extreme punishments are imposed after trials which everybody knows are not conducted in accordance with internationally accepted judicial standards.

"There are doubts, of course, that these women were guilty ... They made confessions which apparently followed physical and sexual assaults by police, and they were coerced into confessing." Details of the women's sub-

sequent statements, withdrawing their confessions, were published in the Daily Mail. Ms McLauchlan spoke of being ordered to undress, of her breasts being fondled and of being slapped across the face. She said she was threatened with multiple rape and told she would be home "in two or three weeks" if she confessed to the killing. Ms Parry's experience was similar. "I am told to remove my clothes or they would do it for me. I removed them and they surrounded me. One knelt down with his head just between my knees and removed some pubic hair with scissors. They said if I move they would cut me.

Leading article, page 20 ට **ලැම** ලෙ ●

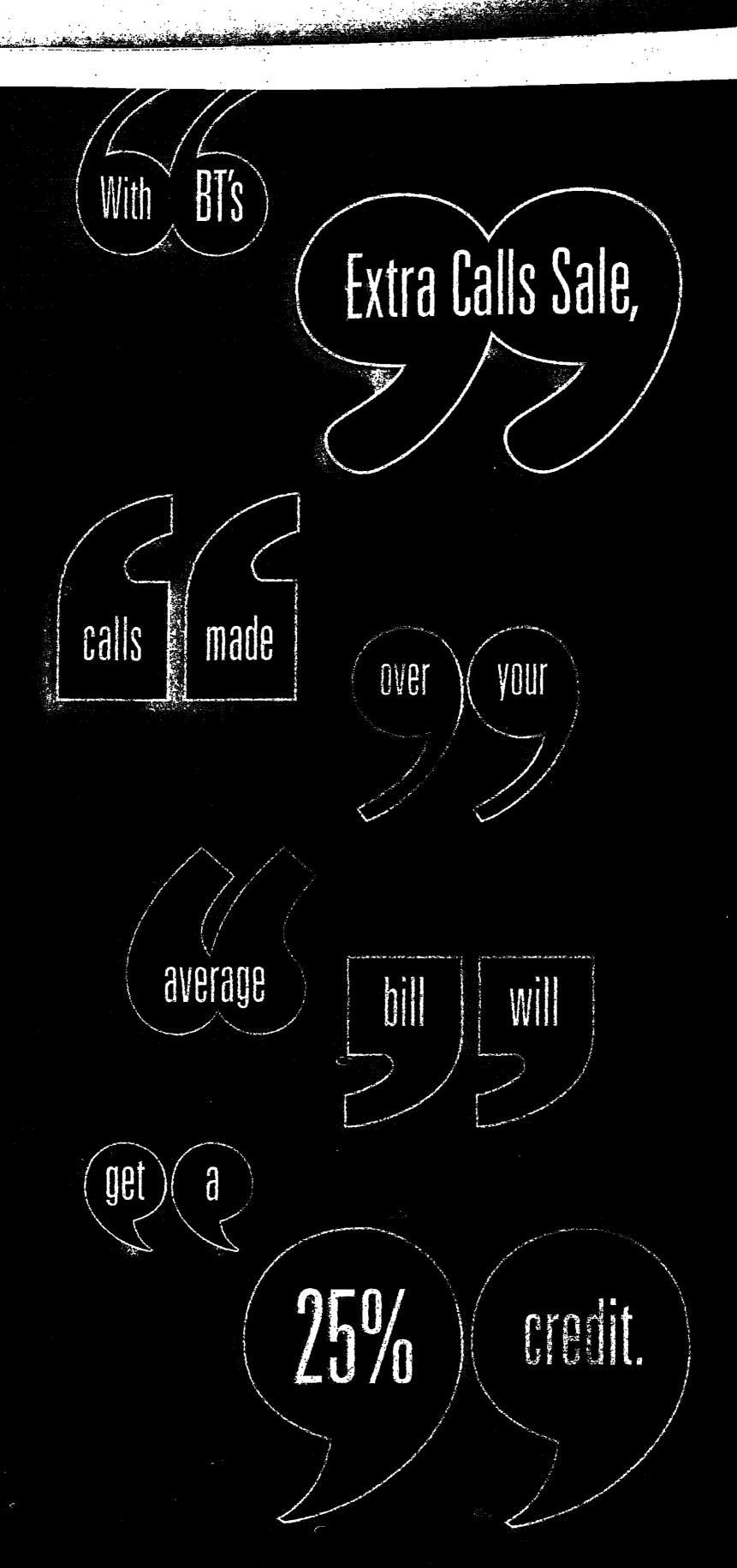






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Doctors get help to make life and death decisions

Two out of three babies and children who die in paediatric intensive care do so after treatment is withdrawn.

Yesterday, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health issued guidelines to help doctors and parents make these agonising decisions. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor,

investigates.

Desperately ill children who would never have survived a decade ago can now he kept alive as a result of advances in the Royal College of Paediatrics of premature babies born at up to 25 weeks gestation found of those who were admitted to the neonatal unit but later died, 60 handicap. per cent did so because care was withdrawn.

Professor Neil McIntosh, chairman of the college's ethics advisory committee, said: "They would have been mainly 22 and 23 week babies who were not offered care because the doctors believed the chances of good survival were very poor, Babies of 25 weeks would be offered care."

In older children treated in intensive care units, 60 per cent of those who die also do so after their care is withdrawn. To help in deciding when care should be withheld, the college. issued a document yesterday. setting out five situations in which it might be appropriate

to let the children die. These include children certified as brain dead or inpermanent vegetative state. who do not react or relate to the outside world. Three other situations identified include: • the "no chance" situation in which the child has such severe disease that continuing treatment merely delays death without easing suffering.

• the "no purpose" situation in which survival is possible but the degree of physical or mental impairment is so great that "it is unreasonable to expect them to bear it.

• the "unbearable situation" in which the child or their family feel that in the face of progressive and irreversible illness further treatment is more than can be borne.

The report cites the exammedical techniques. A survey by ple of a haby born at 23 weeks weighing little more than 1lb who might be saved with weeks of intensive care but at high risk of severe mental and physical

A second example given is that of a 10-year-old girl with leukaemia who is not responding to treatment after a three-year struggle and whose parents decide that she has had enough. In a third, it is suggested that a teenager with muscular dystrophy who has no chance of surviving to adulthood and who develops pneumonia might he denied antibiotics and ventilation so he can die peacefully.

Professor McIntosh said the report had taken over two years to produce and had been rewritten more than ten times because of the sensitivity of the issues. He said there was no escaping the fact that doctors had to make decisions about the quality of other people's lives.



Breast can be best: New mothers seeking advice on breastfeeding now have two charity organisations to turn to

Photograph: David Rose

Rival to National Childbirth Trust is formed

A new organisation for breastfeeding

counsellors is launched today. Its members aim to give independent advice to pregnant

women in contrast, they claim, with the National Childbirth Trust from which they resigned two months ago over the charity's decision to

accept sponsorship from the Sainsbury supermarket chain.

Louise Jury investigates why the rival body has been set up.

Around 70 women who were previously experienced breastfeeding counsellors with the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) are the founding memhers of the Breastfeeding Net-

Many were among those who quit the NCT in July because they felt compromised by its decision to accept sponsorship from Sainsbury's, which sells its own make of breast milk substitute.

The rebels argued that accepting the money from the only supermarket with its own brand of infant formula was an apparent endorsement which conflicted with their professional duty to be impartial as laid down in World Health Organisation guidelines.

Mary Broadfoot, from Glasgow, a trustee and one of the founders of the new charity. said: "We believe that parents have the right to independent "Businesses can make information about breastfeed-

ported in that choice. I think e've done the right thing." The Breastfeeding Network will offer information and support for breastfeeding mothers and will set up a pro-

gramme to train more volun-

ing to enable them to make an

informed choice as to how to

feed their babies, and to be sup-

teer counsellors. It will not accept support from any company which manufactures or distributes infant formula, feeding bottles or teats. The network is being funded by donations and sub-

scriptions and plans to have local support groups across the country. Interested parties can join as associate members.

money from parents' choices about infant feeding - breastmilk substitutes, feeding bottles and teats all make money for someone, while breastmilk is free," Mrs Broadfoot said. Another trustee, Phyll Buchanan, from Wokingham, said: "We are working towards increasing awareness of current research on infant feeding, and also towards creating a society which affirms the right of all mothers to breastfeed their babies."

Andrew Radford, director of the Unicef UK Baby Friendly Initiative, said he

welcomed the formation of the network, adding: "It will enable skilled breastfeeding support-

ers to continue their work

with mothers." A spokeswoman for the National Childbirth Trust, which has 600 breastfeeding counsellors and 300 trainces, said it looked forward to working alongside it the Breastfeeding Network. But she stressed that there had been a vote by NCT members to accept Sainsbury's sponsorship. "The NCT will not be associated with a company name that is primarily associated in the public mind with formula milk. Until the recent publicity, few people would have been aware that Sainsbury's sell an ownbrand product," she said.

Ovaries taken out without woman's knowledge

A woman who had an operation in a private hospital during which her ovaries were removed without her consent only found out when she went to pay the bill.

Jackie Bartley noticed an item for hormone replacement therapy and thought there must have been a mistake. She discovered that her surgeon, John Studd, one of the country's leading gynaecologists, had inserted HRT pellets to take over the function of her missing ovaries.

Yesterday, Mr Studd, director of the fertility unit at the private Lister hospital in London and a member of the council of the Royal College of Obstetricians, appeared before the General Medical Council accused of serious professional misconduct.

The operation, carried out at the Lister hospital in 1992. had been for stress incontinence. Mrs Bartley had consented to a hysterectomy but not to the removal of her ovaries and the discovery of what the surgeon had done "left me feeling like a piece of meat," she told the disciplinary hearing.

Mr Studd said he had removed her ovaries after discovering she was suffering from thickening of the lining of her womb.

He denied that there was insufficient medical justification to remove her ovaries without her consent.

Mrs Bartley was awarded £32,500 in an out of court settlement in July 1995 after she sued Mr Studd.

She told the hearing she had been upset and distressed when she discovered what had happened and had angrily confronted Mr Studd. He had said: "Apart from being mad at me, how are you?"

She said he apologised and said it was unforgivable be had not consulted her.

--- Jeremy Laurance

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The Samaritans

Liberal Democrats will have to compromise their purity and their policies, Paddy Ashdown warned his party yesterday. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, listened to a brave speech delivered by the leader at his party's Eastbourne

The political prizes of continuing constitutional change could only be won if the Liberal Democrats were prepared to take risks, to get involved in the "historic game" of working with others, Mr Ashdown told his party in the keynote conference speech.

conference.

Defying the carping of critics who dislike any hint of "cosving up" with Labour, Mr Ashdown won strong applause for a firm line folded into the traditional attacks on Labour and the Tories. But the biggest cheer of the speech went to a passage which he promised to maintain the attack against Labour government spending

schools and our hospital and our public services this winter".

Pointing out that it had been the Liberal Democrats who had highlighted the "black hole" in government spending, there was a roar of approval when Mr Ashdown added "and we will continue to do it day after day after day".

However, the reassurance that the Liberal Democrats would maintain critical independence and distinctive ideas prepared the ground for the main message of the day and the week - the need to cooperate with Labour, and break "the destructive tribalism" of British politics.

"Part of our mandate from May," he said "was to create a new style of politics - a more rational and constructive style of politics. We have called it constructive opposition.

"Cajoling, influencing, shaping but, yes if necessary vigorously opposing where the government is wrong, but working with them where we agree and where it is in the nation's

"Where we should cooperate, we will do so wholeheartedly. But where we must

oppose, we will do so unflinchingly.

"Here is my prayer for the Parliament ahead. May we have the power to oppose what we must oppose - the courage to support what we must support and the wisdom to know the

> "Yes, it is sometimes easier to shout than to talk; to trade insults than to shake hands; to confront than to converse. But we if we are to make a new start in Britain we must tread the more difficult path.

"If the Prime Minister is serious, as I believe he is, about changing the culture of our politics, I will work with him on that. Because that is the way we can make a difference, just as we said we would."

Mr Ashdown warned that all

was not going to be plain sailing. "No doubt we shall not always agree with every detail of the Government's proposals on constitutional reform and no doubt, not everything we do agree will match every dotted 'i' and cross 't' of every Liberal Democrat policy. And that may mean compromises. And I will find that as tough as any



Paddy Ashdown: 'Part of our mandate from May was to create a more traditional and constructive style of politics'

Photograph: David Rose

speech was received in complete silence, but Mr Ashdown said the party could not play safe. "Complacency, self satisfaction, timidity. These are the of you." That passage of the traps. An excessive concern in the changes which are now

for our own purity. An inability to distinguish the trivial from the vital. A natural desire for a quiet life. If because of these, we fail to play our part

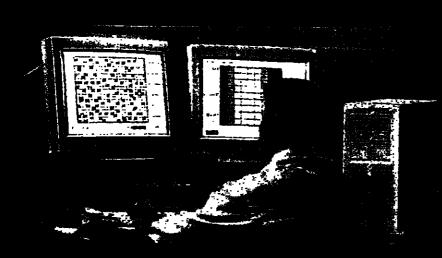
happening, then our successes in the end, changed nothing. I anything else. "But love this on May I could just as easily be, am utterly determined that not a triumphant breakthrough, but a mere footnote of history - an event which appeared remarkable at the time but which al Democrat and could never be

that does not happen."

The leader told the representatives that he was a Liber-

party as I do. I don't believe that just because we wear the same team colours, all that we say is always right and all that others say is always wrong."

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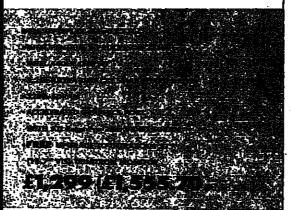
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Delegates vote to take the fight to Labour

Despite their leader's call for closer co-operation with the Government, delegates put themselves at odds with the Blair project. Fron Abrams examines the policy gap

In two debates that came after Paddy Ashdown urged representatives to move forward constructively with the Government, the conference voted to continue opposition to

First came a discussion of the Government's plans for a devolved London authority headed by an elected mayor. Although the Liberal Democrats want a new London government they voted to continue to campaign against a mayor.

They passed a motion calling for full proposals to be published in a bill before a planned referendum, for greater powers for the new body and for opposition to the

Paul Farthing, who is a councillor in London and who moved the motion, said the city needed regional government but not of Labour's kind.

"The presidential style model proposed by Labour risks the paralysis of government we often witness between the president of the United States and Congress. Forget strong government, forget weak government. I want a effective government," he

Representatives later heard that the "list" system of proportional representation proposed for the Scottish and Welsh parliaments - in which some candidates are directly

elected and others are chosen by parties on a proportional basis - would be unfair. The government's proposed

electoral commission should be told by the Liberal Democrats that any new proportional system should be by Single Transferable Vote, in which losers' votes are redistributed.

Adrian Collett, Liberal Democrat leader on Hampshire County Council, said electoral deals would be done in "smokefilled rooms" under Labour's

"Either we mean what we said for all these years that electoral reform is about making our democracy meaningful again, about putting it into the hands of the people," he said, "...or we are just the self-seeking bunch of political cynics that our opponents in the media always said we were."

Thorpe returns from the wilderness

Jeremy Thorpe, the disgraced former Liberal Party leader, was given a rousing reception when he appeared at the conference vesterday.

Mr Thorpe, who is suffering from Parkinson's Disease, made what was believed to be his first conference appearance for nearly 20 years.

He came to hear Paddy Ashdown's speech and took his seat in the auditorium at Eastbourne shortly before lunchtime. He rose to his feet as he was introduced by the platform and clasped his hands together above his head to acknowledge the

cheers of delegates, some of them giving

him a standing ovation. The former Liberal leader nodded and applauded with others through Mr Ashdown's speech and rose to his feet with the rest of those in the hall at the end.

Mr Thorpe stood down as Liberal leader in 1976 after a series of allegations about his private life. He was acquitted at the Old Bailey in 1979 after being charged

with conspiracy to murder. Mr Thorpe appeared briefly on the cam-



Jeremy Thorpe: Rousing reception

paign trail with Mr Ashdown in the South West of England in 1992, but he has made few political appearances since his acquittal.

A spokesman for Mr Ashdown said: "The party had a long, hard climb back from the wilderness years in the 1940s and 1950s and the contribution of Jo Grimond, Jeremy Thorpe and David (now Lord) Steel to that climb back has been immense.

"Jeremy Thorpe's leadership at that time was tremendously inspirational and so the party is very pleased to see him here."

Call for all-party effort to save NHS

Conditions in hospitals are £700m - Mr Hughes said only bound to worsen this winter as collaboration could solve it. a deficit in the health service deepens, the Liberal Democrat conference was told vesterday.

Simon Hughes, the party's health spokesman suggested the overspend could rise to £800m this year from around £700m last year. He called for health professionals, Tories and Labour Party members to join a standing conference aimed at finding solutions to the crisis.

Although other estimates put lower figures on the shortfall - the NHS Confederation suggested it might be £600m to

"There is one coalition that the British people want politicians to sign up to now. A coalition to secure the future of the NHS," he said, referring to reports that Liberal Democrats

might be moving towards a pact with Labour. Dr Evan Harris, another member of the party's health team, said Labour has missed opportunities to put an extra £700m into the health service

since the election. Putting the

proceeds of the abolition of sub-

sidies on private health insur-

ance into the health service along with extra tobacco taxes would have saved more than

£300m, he said. Plans to charge tuition fees would drain money from the

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service in bursaries. An outbreak of flu or a spell of cold weather would cause more problems for hos-

pitals this winter, he said. "Are our hospitals forced to count on sudden global warming? Or is the Labour party navigating this country's health service up a creek and throwing out the paddle." he asked.

- Fran Abrams

'Private Eye' readers go undercover over Diana

Britain's best-known satirical magazine was pulled from newsagents' shelves when it attacked the reaction of press and public to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Paul McCann reveals how readers are trying to ensure it can continue to speak out.

Eve have doubled following the banning of the magazine by newsagent chains in the aftermath of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Readers seeking to make sure they can get the magazine in future, no matter what it prints, are lining up for home delivery while others have donated thousands of pounds because they are worried that its loss of sales on the "Diana" is-

sue could jeopardise its future. The magazine's editor, lan Hislop, estimates that onethird of the magazine's usual 180,000 sales were lost because of the censorship by newsagents, but he is returning magazine insists that the posireaders' cheques "because

things aren't quite that bad". Three days after the Princess's death, Private Eye's front cover targeted what it saw as the public's hypocrisy in buying newspapers that they were then blaming for her death.

The magazine's famous "speech-bubble" cover showed crowds outside Buckingham Palace trying to get hold of a newspaper containing pictures of Diana's crashed car.

This was deemed "inappropriate" by the large T&S Stores political issue. and Alldays retail chains which banned the magazine outright. WH Smith first pulled the magazine then allowed their individual managers to decide of the Conservative Party. whether or not to sell the Eye out of sight.

printing pictures of Diana just hours before her death," said Mr Hislop. "So it was rather hypocritical of them not to put the Eye on their shelves. The fact is that is that this supposed deep grief expressed itself in terms of self-righteousness."

"We've doubled the usual number of subs [subscriptions] we sell in the two weeks since the banned issue," added Mr Hislop. "Because it is the only way to ensure that you get

The magazine also ran a bit-Postal subscriptions to Private ing leader from its fake newspaper, the "Daily Gnome". apologising on behalf of the British press for having in the past portrayed Diana as: "A neurotic, irresponsible and manipulative troublemaker," and that the press only realised after her death that she was, "in fact the most saintly woman who has ever lived". The "Daily Gnome" leader column expressed the British press's "sincere and deepest hypocrisy".

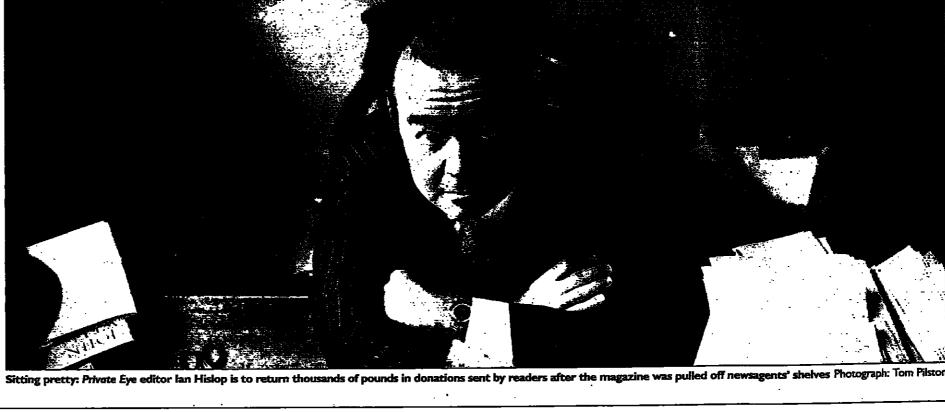
> The Eye has received an "enormous" amount of post because of its Diana issue with some correspondents accusing the magazine of being "grosstive letters have outweighed the negative by ten to one.

There was a range of targets on offer in that issue," said Mr Hislop. "We took on the hypocrisy of the public, which was risky. But most of it was the overwhelming bilge being pumped out by the media."

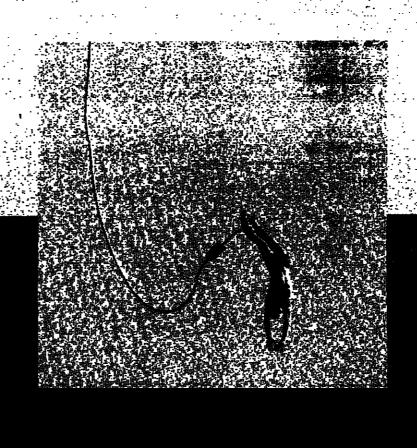
Private Eve was removed from a small number of newsagents in the early Nineties for running the headline: "The Fuck Stops Here" when President Bill Clinton's sexual fidelity first became a

An entire issue was once pulped on the instructions of lawyers working for Lord Parkinson, the current chairman

Private Eye later managed to or to keep it under a counter overturn the injunction and ran Lord Parkinson on the We pointed out to Smiths front cover with "I've stopped that they had been making the buggers printing coming money from selling tabloids out of his mouth.



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new curb on press if they have something in their Newspaper editors have

Privacy code puts

agreed extensive changes to rules covering their behaviour because of the paparazzi's involvement in the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Paul McCann looks at how the famous, the Royal and the humble will get more protection.

The sight of a media scrum swarming around someone in the eye of a publicity storm should become a thing of the past after a review of the rules of conduct for journalists in the to and past their 16th birthdays. aftermath of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

New regulations on harassment and privacy will be anin the history of the PCC, were nounced today by Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. terday.

They are expected to include a formal definition of harassment that will allow the PCC to clamp down on publications whose staff take part in "collective harassment which is not justified by the nature of the event".

The stricter harassment definition is designed to prevent the power to make the media the kind of paparazzi tactics do what they want." that played a part in the death • The Broadcasting Standards of the princess.

editors have told Lord Wakeham that they were concerned freedom of speech and public that the new rules should not offence after a British Nationallow MPs to escape the attentions of investigative journalists by crying "harassment" viewers.

personal or financial affairs to

Also to be included is an extension of the restriction which bars photography of individuals in private places to areas such as churches and restaurants "where individuals might reasonably expect a degree of privacy".

These exclusions are designed to tighten the current rules about reporters and photographers intruding on people during times of "shock and grief", particularly funerals.

The new regulations for the public are on top of agreements reached by newspaper editors not to intrude on the lives of Princes William and Harry up

The changes to the code of conduct, which have been described as the most extensive agreed at a full meeting of the commission in London yes-

Sir David English, editor-inchief of the Daily Mail, said: "We have to review everything in the light of what's happened in the last month.

"I think the media does respond to public opinion because the media is commercial and to a large extent the public have

Commission has called on It is understood that some broadcasters and politicians to but can't quite push yourself over the edge. You don't want to take the plunge for fear of interest rates jumping around, and all of a sudden bang goes next year's trip to New Zealand which you've been planning for months.

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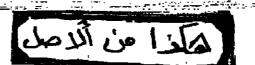


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Union leaders push for higher minimum wage

After more than a decade of agonising, the high command of the trade union movement yesterday decided that it would demand a national minimum wage of 'somewhat more than £4 an hour'.

Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, discloses the contents of the . first significant 'bid' set to go before the Low Pay Commission.

With days to go before the Labour Party conference, ministers were yesterday urged by union leaders to set the national minimum wage at least 50p an hour higher than they envisage. Members of the Trades Union Congress's executive committee yesterday approved a confidential paper calling for a rate of more than £4 an hour.

The paper, which will now go before the TUC's ruling general council, urges an "incremental approach to the elimination of low pay", which suggests that the initial rate should only be a starting point and it should increase in relative and absolute terms over time. The TUC is due to give oral evidence on 14 October to the Low Pay Commission, set up by the Government to advise on the rate. It assumes that the minimum will be introduced in late 1998 or early 1999.

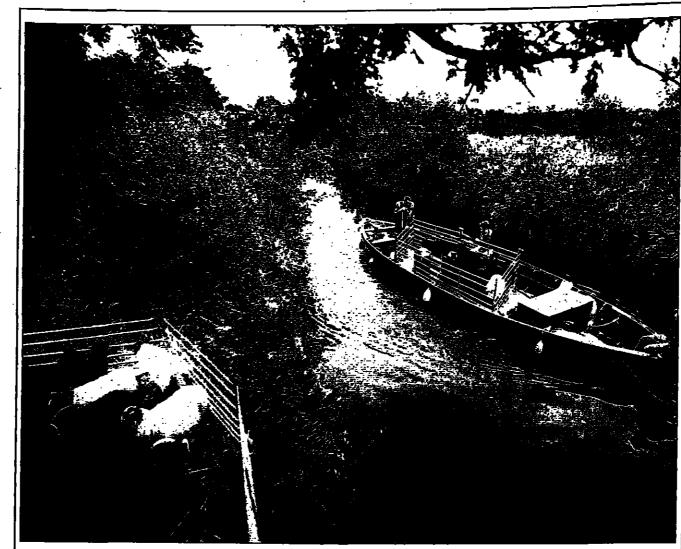
An amendment to go before next week's party conference in Brighton calling for £4.42 an hour is likely to be airbrushed from the agenda by a leadership anxious to avoid being tied to any figure. The decision by the TUC is therefore potentially embarrassing for Labour leaders.

Yesterday, senior union leaders expressed their disapproval of a draft prepared by Congress House officials calling for a wage set at "around £4 an hour" and insisted that it be inflated to "somewhat more than £4 an hour". The change was made in deference to some powerful affiliates, such as public-service union Unison, which are calling for a rate set at half male median earnings calculated at £4.42.

The TUC asserts that a £4 minimum would save £380m in state benefits paid to those in work. Over the last two years the £4 figure has been a target for unions in negotiations with employers

There should be "a generally accepted notion of what constitutes a fair wage", the paper argues and commends the half male median earnings formula. It accepts, however, that it can be calculated to produce a figure of £3.65, £3.95 or £44.42 an hour. The paper considers that the rate should apply to earnings and not to basic vages to take into account piece-work pay.

The paper is silent on whether there should be a lower rate for trainees or for younger workers, although the Low Pay Commission has been asked by ministers to consider the matter. It says the minimum should apply to "all workers no matter what their status may be".



Farmyard ferry: Garry Williams, a shepherd in Norfolk, moving his flock of Hebridian sheep from an island on the Hickling Broad to fresh mainland grazing

First-born boys for older dads

ers brea

Ageing sugar daddies secking a male heir for their fortune should get bitched pronto to that young popsic. British scientists have found that women who marry men much older than themselves have a greater 🎉 chance of having a boy as their. first child. "The age difference between parents predicts the sex of the first child," said John Manning and colleagues at the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Liverpool.

A study of 30i families, with age differences ranging from husbands 15 years older to nine years younger than their wives, found that where the husband is younger, or up to five years older, a daughter is the likeliest first child. On average, men are two years older than their wives.

The researchers stumped for the reason: "We don't know why, but that is the case in our data," said Professor Manning. Certainly, some maternal effect does exist. Studies in the Forties and Fifties found that after war and periods of hardship, when the age difference in marriages tends to increase, more boys are born.



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Hanged man's case reviewed after 45 years

A man who was hanged 45 years ago for allegedly slitting the throat of a shopkeeper is to have his case re-examined by the Court of the Appeal.

The move follows years of campaigning by the family of Mahmood Mattan, in particu-

lar his widow Laura. Mattan, a Somali seaman from the Tiger Bay area of Cardiff, was hanged in 1952 for

yesterday that it is "beyond be- 🚣 shop at 8pm at the latest. But lief" that Mr Mattan was exe- even Miss Volpert's family were

cuted.

was found with her throat cut and between £100 and £200 was missing. Mattan's trial lasted three days and the jury was out for little more than 90 minutes. He was executed seven weeks after his conviction.

Miss Volpert, a shopkeeper,

He was convicted on the identification evidence of one witness and one piece of "forensic" evidence: blood on the murder of Lily Volpert. .. one shoe. The witness main-Mrs Mattan's solicitors said tained that Mattan had left the

a gold tooth, no hat or coat, aged 30 to 40 and wearing a brown suit. Mattan was 5ft 8in and aged 29. He had no gold tooth and had worn a dark overcoat that night. The blood was a few tiny

8.05 to 8.10pm. The man was

described as being 5ft 10in, with

specks on a secondhand shoe. It was not tested forensically. The Criminal Cases Review Commission has referred the case to the Court of Appeal which could posthumously clear Mattan of the murder.

— Jason Bennetto

Motor industry agrees number plates change

sure that she was still alive at

The August rush for new car number plates looks to be over, and ministers have agreed with the motor industry that the costs of selling 25 per cent of all vehicles in one month are

The Government is to move to a system under which the letter of the alphabet that indicates the year of registration will be changed every six months. Once those letters are exhausted, the

administration plans to introduce a new system - also based on a six-monthly change. The changes will take effect from September next year, contingent on approval from the motor industry. The new registration plates would be the biggest

The industry has long complained that the once-a-year

change in the system since the

present regime came into effect

switch is a commercial nightmare, creating a patchy cash flow and large storage costs.

The present series of letters is due to end in 2004, if not sooner. Alternatives include systems based on geographical areas, and a combination of age and area identifiers, or, registration numbers which would remain with the owner rather than with the vehicle.

— Randeeb Ramesi

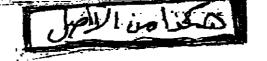
NORTHERN ROCK BUILDING SOCIETY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NORTHERN ROCK BUILDING SOCIETY SHARE AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CUSTOMERS.

The following amendments to all of Northern Rock Building Society's (the "Society") share and deposit account terms and conditions will take effect on the date (the "Vesting Date") on which the Society's business is transferred to Northern Rock plc:

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- 2. the Northern Rock General Investment Conditions (2s amended from time to time) will be deemed to be incorporated in the terms and conditions of all Northern Rock plc investment accounts as at the Vesting Date.

- 1. Investors in the Society's share and deposit accounts will become depositors in Northern Rock plc from the Vesting Date - which is expected to be 1 October 1997.
- 2. The Northern Rock General Investment Conditions are available on request from Northern Rock, T and C Request, Investment Enquiries, Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne
- 3. The General Investment Conditions which were set out on pages 84 to 87 (inclusive) of the Society's Transfer Document dated 17 February 1997 have been amended as follows:a. Clause (iii) - the deletion of the word "holder" in the last line; and b. Clause (xxxiii) - the insertion of the words "and NR plc agrees" in the first line. In addition, certain other non-material amendments have been made to the General Investment Conditions which were set out in the Transfer Document.



Barriers break as Britain embraces upward mobility

Class distinctions may exist but are not a block to reaching the top, according to a report.

Michael Streeter looks at the debate over whether family background still matters in Britain.

Last year the distinguished economist Lord Bauer and the editor of the Specia-tor magazine, Frank Johnson, nominated an earl for membership of the Garrick Club. Here were two low-born men - one the immigrant son of a Hungarian bookmaker, the other son of a pastry chef-backing the blue-blooded Earl of Onslow for entry to one of the country's most exclusive establishments.

Mr Johnson recalls the impact it had on his friend. "I remember Peter [Lord Bauer] saying, 'how can people believe this is a class-driven society when two oiks like us nominate the Earl of Onslow for the Garrick?""

The outcome was that Lord Bauer dusted down a 20-year-old pamphlet on British society and today publishes the updated version called "Class on the Brain", a brief study of social mobility.

Its theme is simple. Differences of class may still permeate British life but they are not - and he claims, rarely have been - barriers to social advancement. Moreover, Lord Bauer claims that widespread acceptance of the "misconceptions" about class has itself harmed society and social

mobility by encouraging damaging policies. In his introduction, Lord Bauer says:



"The [restrictive and divisive class] system is supposed to be a major barrier to economic progress in Britain and also a significant source of justified social discontent. This is untrue."

To back his argument, he gives examples of numerous people from "modest" backgrounds who have achieved much in fields such as commerce, the Civil Service, politics, education, the media and the

In the media, the pamphlet cites the John Birt, director-general of the BBC, who

was born in Bootle into a family of dockers, and Melvyn Bragg, author, radio presenter and director of London Weekend Television, who Lord Bauer describes as being brought up "in the family pub" in Wigton, Cumberland.

Examples from the world of commerce include Joseph Lewis - described as Britain's richest man after making a fortune in currency dealing - who was born and brought up in an East End pub; Newcastle multi-millionaire Sir John Hall, the son of a miner, Ann Gloag, a former nurse

who co-founded the bus and train company Stagecoach; and Mark Dixon, son of an engineer, who left school at 16 to sell hamburgers and later founded Regus, now the world's largest provider of serviced offices.

Lord Bauer also refers to the relatively bumble origins of prime ministers Harold Wilson, James Callaghan, Margaret Thatcher, and John Major. The Archbishoo of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, is the son of a hospital porter, while among the "elite" of the Civil Service the Permanent Sec-

was born in a council house in a pit village. Lord Bauer also quotes the results from a study last year in which 52 per cent of a sample group had "moved class" in their lifetime.

The thrust of the pamphlet, published by the Centre for Policy Studies, sits uneasily with a book to be published next month called A Class Act, the Myth of Britain's Classless Society by Andrew Adunis and Stephen Pollard. This describes the emergence of a new "super class", an

Rich pickings: Melvyn Bragg, far left, Ann Gloag and John Birt have all risen to the top from humble origins

society by "wealth, education, values, residence and lifestyle".

However, the authors appear to square the circle with Bauer's thesis by admitting that this class has emerged in an "open" society where social mobility abounds.

The "super class" concept coincides with the views of historian and writer Sir Roy Strong - himself mentioned in the pamphiet - who regards the new Labour clite as its embodiment. "The Blairs are a monument to this new Establishment class." Sir Roy, who believes the impact of old-style class is waning, recalled an incident when he had applied for work at a museum. "I put down my father's occupation as commercial traveller. Someone told me not to, and instead put 'businessman'. At that time one felt very humble, and museums were incredibly class-bound. But I don't think that would happen now."

Mark Dixon, head of Regus, believes class does exist but provides "obstacles" rather than barriers. "If you have no contacts or education you just have to start from scratch and do it all yourself, but that can help - it makes you better at opening doors. "And if you come from the bottom you have nothing to lose - and every move you make is a step up."

• Class on the Brain - The Cost of a British Obsession; Centre for Policy Studies; 57 Tufton Street, London SWIP 3QL; £7.50



The right of silence under police questioning takes on a whole new meaning as a result of research which shows that one regional accent can influence official perception of guilt or innocence. Richard Smith reports on bad news for West Midland folk.

Simply speaking with a Birmingham accent makes it more than twice as likely that a suspect will be fingered for a Berenice Mahone

is they places de

V ROCK

The findings have been made by three psychology lecturers from Worcester College of Higher Education who hired male actors to reproduce police interviews with suspected armed robbers and cheque fraudsters.

The actors used the Birmingham - or "Brummie" - accent and standard accents for the test and the suspect's guilt was judged by 119 students.

The results showed a bigger bias against Brummie accents than was the case with differ-

"The Brummie suspect was regarded as less intelligent, more likely to be poor and working-class and less socially competent," said Berenice Mahoney.



crime, according to researchers. are willing to use prejudice'

Someone with a Brummie accent was more than twice as likely to be convicted of the crime than a suspect with a standard accent.

Past research has tended to find that people who use regional accents are frequently seen as more friendly, warm and kind. But we didn't even find our way. The Brummie accent does come out particularly badly," said Dr Mahoney.

"Accents like Geordie and Mancunian seem to come out quite well but the Brummie has tended to stay along the bottom . It's all to do with power and what's regarded as socially acceptable. What we found quite

startling was that people are willing to ... exercise their prejudices even when something as important as criminal guilt is in-

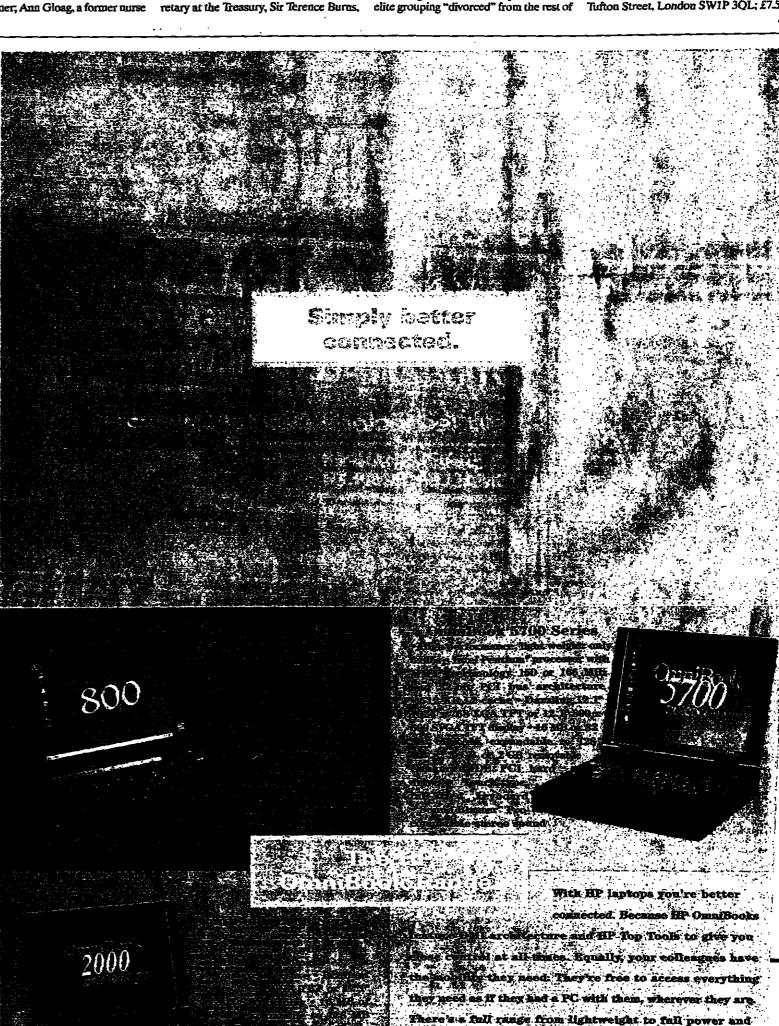
Dr Mahoney warned: "This was a preliminary study and the results should be treated with caution. But it would be naive of us to think this is not happening with magistrates, police officers and jurors involved in the legal process. The extent to which it is happening is one of the things we need to establish.

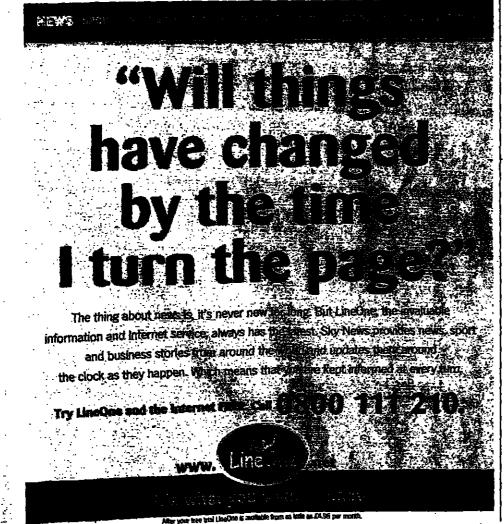
"It's just another example of a prejudice we need to tackle. I don't think there is an easy solution but at least if people are aware it exists there is a chance of re-educating those involved in these decisions."

This is the first research in Britain linking regional accents with possible bias in the legal

John Dixon, one of Dr Mahoney's co-researchers, carried out a similar study in South Africa three years ago which found that someone using a regional dialect was more likely to Brummie was regarded in that . be convicted of a blue-collar crime. But the results of the Brummie accent was equally likely to be blamed for the white-collar cheque fraud as the

blue-collar armed robbery. The survey's findings will be presented at a British Psychological Society conference in Cambridge next week.







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10/NEWS

Courts martial system in breach of human rights

Britain's system of courts martial was condemned for a second time yesterday by the European Court of Human Rights.

But the Strasbourg judges' refusal to award compensation to RAF officer Paul Coyne could deter hundreds more potential complainants from pressing claims in

Mr Coyle's case was the latest in a series of appeals by former service personnel in the wake of a ruling in February that the courts martial system - essentially trial by superior officer rather than independent adjudicator - broke article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair trial.

The UK moved swiftly to reform the system, implementing changes in the 1996 Armed Forces Act in April. There are likely to be sighs of relief within the Ministry of Defence. Despite the reforms the MoD had feared multiple compensation claims.

In vesterday's ruling, however, the Strasbourg judges rejected Mr Coyne's claim for the drop in income and earning capacity which he had suffered since a conviction by a courts martial for forgery in January 1994. The judges said there was no difference between Mr Coyne's case and February's claim by Falklands veteran Alex Findlay against the Army. But the court could not speculate as to what the outcome of Mr Coyne's trial might have been had it been fair and could not award compensation. — Patricia Wynn Davies

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Air traffic debacle delaying flights

It was meant to be the state-ofthe-art answer to Britain's overcrowded sides. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, explains why the UK's £350m new air traffic control centre is still not up and running and may not be operational until the end of the decade, more than three years

With air traffic increasing by 5 per cent a year in Britain and airlines increasingly concerned about punctuality, carriers will tomorrow voice their worries to the head of the National Air Traffic Service, Bill Semple.

Mr Semple, it is understood, will tell the airlines that the new Swanwick centre, built in Hampshire, will be operational by the end of 1999. This is unlikely to please the carriers, who were expecting the new system to handle "at least 40 per cent more airspace capacity in the mid to late 1990s".

According to Computer Weekly, the British Air Transport Association (Bata), the airline's trade association, wrote last month asking for a refund of the contributions made by airlines to the centre since 1994. Industry estimates put the cost of the extra charges - which cover the depreciation costs associated with the building - to top £30m.

"Airlines are paying 2.5 per cent more than they normally would have for a service that is not being delivered," said Howard

Davies, secretary general of Bata. The problem for the National Air Traf-



fic Service (Nats) is that the world's most advanced air-traffic control centre has been grounded - because of errors in the computer system. The errors are on such a large scale that the problem is unlikely to be resolved in the near future.

What has surprised experts is that the company that won the lucrative contract for Swanwick - the American giant Lockheed Martin - also secured a £230m deal to build the Scottish air traffic centre in Prestwick.

Mr Davies says that the airlines are also considering asking the National Audit Office to probe the Swanwick deal. "We would

like to know whether the contractor can be penalised for this level of service," he said. The Commons transport select committee will also investigate the "Swanwick affair" when Parliament reconvenes next month.

British Airways has made "representations" to Nats concerning the non-service from Swanwick. "We eagerly await Nats' proposals in order to resolve the issue. Clearly it affects punctuality - which is important for many passengers." In March, only 37 per cent of BA's Gatwick to Miami flights ran to time; on the Heathrow-Los Angeles service more than 40 per cent of planes left late.

Beeb ad puts commercial radio chiefs in a spin

Commercial radio companies have been put in a spin by the BBC's lavish promotional trailer for its radio stations starring Elton John, David Bowie and a collection of stars singing the Lou Reed classic "Perfect Day". Representatives of commercial stations such as Virgin and Capital complain that the trailer amounts to unfair competition because it is no more than an extended advertisement running on the BBC.

Paul Brown, chief executive of the Commercial Radio Companies Association, said yesterday that he would raise the BBC trailer with the Department of Culture Media and Sport. "It is clearly an advertising campaign." he said, pointing out that there are plans to run the trailer in cinemas later in the autumn and that it was created with the BBC's advertising agency Leagas Delaney. A BBC spokesman rejected the radio compunies' complaints, saying the trailer is just an example of good marketing. It is intended to maintain support for the licence fee and follows a series of such trailers recorded by EastEnders stars and Vic Receves and Bob Mortimer.

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The four-minute advertisement stars 26 singers each singing a line from the 25-year-old song that was last heard on the soundtrack of Trainspotting. Singers like Bono of U2, Brett Anderson from Suede, Ian Broudie of the Lightning Seeds and Tammy Wynette contributed a line each of the song for just £250. Lou Reed contributed the first and last lines and has praised the song: "I have never been more impressed with a performance of one of my songs," he said.

Move to trademark Diana

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has moved to register a Diana logo and the name Diana, Princess of Wales, as trademarks in the United States and Europe to stop the sale of merchandise that uses her image a memory. Yet ironically similar trademark protection may not be possible in the United Kingdom. Under British law it is not possible to claim possession of a face or a name. In the US it is possible for celebrities to regulate the use of their image.

There has been an unseemly rush to produce T-shirts, coins and other memorabilia bearing the late princess's name and the memorial fund wants to protect such revenue for the charities it represents. Stars in Britain have attempted to protect themselves from so-called "image theft" by trademarking individual aspects of the celebrity. Damon Hill has registered his eyes looking from a crash helmet and Eric Cantona has registered shirts marked "Cantona 7" and the catchphrase "Ooh Ah Cantona"

Deep Blue quits while ahead



Deep Blue is hanging up its pawns. The IBM supercomputer that defeated the world chess champion Garry Kasparov in May has decided that it is cut out for better things than chess. It wants to try its hand at air traffic control, or weather forecasting, or molecular dynamics. Yesterday, Melinda McMullen, spokeswoman for IBM Research, responded to Kasparov's proposal for a \$1m, rematch by announcing that Deep Blue is moving away from chess. Our scientists said that they really did want to move on to other grand challenges," she said. The team that worked on Deep Blue will, however, continue to tour the United States with a less powerful version called Deep Blue Junior. - William Hartston



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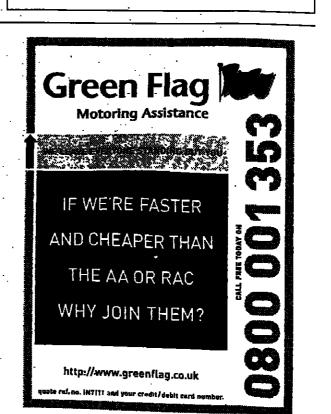
DAILY POEM

Clare's Jig #43

by Ian Duhig

I'd collected a good jig called "The Self", but lilting it last night for Dr Bottle he chided me, opined it should be Sylph, which is Greek, like much he says, meaning beetle, He chokes the same and gibbets butterflies. now all your rich men's fashionable rage. My fellow inmates praise him to the skies, and like a hawk he scans my every page, the dumb morris of these poor whopstraw words. When pressed, a melancholy Johnson said "Why Sir, we are a nest of singing birds!" Well I hear boughs breaking inside my head so listen till the music has to stop. for like a tree, I'm dying from the top.

This week's poems come from Beyond Bedlam (Anvil Press, £7.95). An anthology of work "written out of mental distress", it has been edited by Ken Smith and Matthew Sweeney to mark the 750th anniversary of the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals; proceeds from the volume go to three mental health



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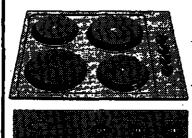
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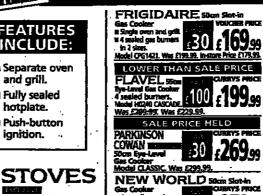
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France acts to stamp out ritual humiliation of the new kids at school

Two teenagers have been expelled from a lycée in Orléans and 14 others suspended in Marseilles for 'bizutage' ritual humiliation of new students. John Lichfield reports on the French government's pledge to eradicate a tradition which is disfiguring some of the top schools and colleges.

At the élite design school in Paris it is called usinage. Each autumn, new students suffer months of ritual humiliation and torture: they are woken every few hours at night; they are forced to bolt their food; sexual insults are screamed into their ears by older students. At the College Stanislas, a

fashionable Catholic lycée in Paris, it is called the Soupe de Stan. The freshmen and women ~ les bizouts - are dressed in binliners and adult nappies and forced to drink soup made from pet food, chicken heads and pigs' legs.

They, it appears, are among the lucky ones. At élite lycées and colleges all over France, bizutage - the ritual initiation of the new pupils - has been growing increasingly vicious, country which invented human often amounting to torture and sexual assault: slave auctions, strippings, sodomy with candles.

This autumn a pressure group of 17 parents', teachers' and young people's organisations - backed by the League of Human Rights - has decided enough is enough, and begun a campaign to have the practice cradicated. The government agrees, it has sent a circular to all colleges and bycées threatening to suspend or sack staff who fail to crack down on bizuages and listing the legal penaties - up to five years' brought to bear on perpetra- sociations, te

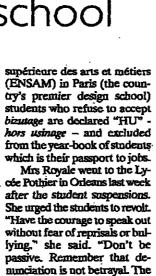
In the meantime, the schools minister, Ségolène Royale, has set up a help-line and urged victims to break the code of silence which has sheltered the ritual for years. There have already been some results. Following a complaint by a parent, two students at a lycée in Orléans have been ejected for organising the bizutage of new students wishing to join a judo class. Last year, male students had their genitals glued together; this year, there was an act of attempted sodomy with a fountain pen.

Fourteen students at one of the top lycées in Marseilles have been suspended following another complaint to the ministry. The pupils, including 11 girls, have admitted taking and distributing photographs of new girls in humiliating and partially undressed poses. Other complaints have been less chilling. One girl in Sarreguemines in Lorraine said she had been covered in flour and made to distribute pasta in the town centre.

The government campaign has been greeted with relief by many former students. A university professor, Jean Berard, writing in Libération, said bizutage was "one of the most scandalous problems of our society". Not only were these "fantasies spewed from reptillian brains" tolerated in the rights", they were happening in the élite establishments.

A few people have stepped forward to justify bizutage: they speak of creating a sense of adulthood; of ésprit de corps. The fact that it is most common at top establishments is not surprising: the élite form a kind of educationally selected, secret society and bizzage seems to be part of the entry requirement. But no one defends the more vicious practices of recent years.

Dozens of previous attempts have been made to abolish bizutage. But they failed to enimprisonment - which could be list the support of old pupils' astors. A draft law against bizu- members. They also failed to tage is expected to go before the break down the codes of si-National Assembly next month. lence. At the Ecole nationale



law itself demands that you

help people who are in danger."

Happy days for some, but a code of silence has ensured secret misery among generations of French students

Photograph: Katz Pictures







well done! fourth time lucky!

come on. it was pretty tight

yep, it was an amazing display of sheer parking genius.

I didn't want to scuff the wheels, actually

o.k. see you later then

sorry?

if I'm not at the kerb in 15 minutes, go on without me



Maths teaching in inner-cities fails to make the grade

Inspectors have criticised maths teaching in inner cities - some schools are not even

teaching times-tables. They say educating deprived children is no excuse for low standards and warn that big variations in teaching quality must be addressed if Britain is to catch up with competing countries. Judith Judd, Education Editor,

Maths standards in three innercity local authorities are close to the national average but still much too low if we are to compete with other countries. enough in tests which children says an inspectors' report published vesterday. All three authorities educate some of the most deprived children in Britain, but that, the report says, is no excuse for low standards.

The inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education found some excellent teaching but say that there should be more emphasis on mental arithmetic. In one school only 4 per cent of seven-year-olds could write down a two-digit number in words. In another, 93 per cent did this correctly. Even in classes where pupils were expected to rely on calculators they were not taught how to use them properly.

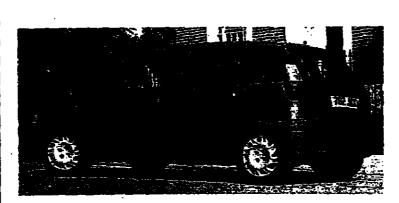
The study of seven- and eleven-year-olds in the London boroughs of Newham and Greenwich and Knowsley on Merseyside showed that seven-

year-olds achieved scores close to a national sample on specially devised tests, although 11year-olds did less well. But the latest international study found that English nine-year-olds were only 10th out of 17 countries in maths, well behind those in the Pacific Rim.

The report says: "If our national standards are low, then schools scoring close to the national average must also have low standards." However, some schools, even in the poorest areas are already close to achieving the Government's targets, suggesting that the national target for maths is achievable.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said targets for pupils' performance needed to be under constant review if we were to match our competitors. "If we are not expecting are set already and not stretching children's potential enough, we are not going to make up the gap with our international competitors." he said.

National test results out today will show progress towards the Government's goal of 75 per cent of pupils reaching the expected maths level by 2002. Children from poor families who cannot read at the age of six are still benefiting from "reading recovery" schemes five years later, says a study from London University's Institute of Education. The research shows that reading recovery, which involves daily one-to-one tuition for 20 weeks, made no significant difference after five years to most children's reading but it did help the slowest readers who were on free school meals.



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14/WORLD NEWS

Yeltsin plans to curb the free market

Pronouncing Communism dead, Boris Yeltsin has vowed to introduce a "new economic order" into Russia in which the state plays a far larger role in curbing the excesses of the free market. Speaking to the upper house of parliament, a robustlooking Mr Yehsin signalled that he intends to crack down on one of the struts of his political support - Russia's tiny but vasily rich class of new capitalists who cashed in during the first, lawless post-Soviet years.

"Freedom alone is not enough. We need a new economic order," said Mr Yeltsin. "In itself, the market is not a panacea. We need to increase the role of the state in the economy." The president's remarks means that he has in his sights the nation's often shady bankers, who bankrolled his re-election, but with whom his administration has been squabbling over the spoils of privatisation.

The Russian government has been highly ineffectual. hobbled by organised crime, excessive bureaucracy and corruption that reaches from top to bottom. But Mr Yeltsin vowed to toughen up its role.



A victim of Tuesday's Algerian massacre returning yesterday to Bentalha, the village where 200 people were killed

Algerian rebels' peace call shifts blame for slaughter

Two days after the latest massacre in Algeria which killed 200 civilians, the country's largest Islamic insurgent group has urged its followers to observe a truce from | October. Rupert Comwell asks if is this offers real hope that the carnage could soon end - or is it just a cynical effort to shift the blame?

The olive branch, if such it is, came in the form of a two-page communiqué signed by Madani Mezerag, the senior commander of the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the military wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and published across the front pages of state-controlled

Algerian newspapers yesterday. Disassociating itself from the wave of butchery that for months now has terrorised Algiers and the surrounding countryside, the IAS leader pinned the blame squarely on the rival Armed Islamic Group (GIA). Calling on other groups as well to lay down their arms, it vowed "to expose the enemy" behind the killings, and "isolate the criminal remnants of the perverse GIA extremists, and those who hide behind them".

The attention in the official media is a sign the military regime of President Liamine Zeroual is taking the gambit seriously - and also indirectly confirms that the government has been negotiating secretly with its opponents. The FIS, which was poised to win the 1992 elections whose cancellation detonated five years of savagery in which 60,000 people may have died.

If the authorship of the communique is not in doubt, its impact is questionable. The independent daily El Watan, which only reported the document on its third page, doubted the AIS commander could influence the groups nominally under his authority, let alone the GIA, whose powerbase is Algiers and its hinterland where the bloodiest slaughters have occurred.

In an earlier gesture of reconcilation, the gov ernment in July released the FIS deputy leader Abassi Madani — only to see the brutality plumb unprecedented depths. Now there are increasing signs that, as part of a power struggle within the regime, factions of the security forces are colluding with the terrorists.

Yesterday an FIS leader in Denmark accused the Algerian authorities of sponsoring the slaughter then blaming Islamic militants. Indeed, despite assurances from the government that the insurgency was all but stamped out, several massacres have taken place almost in earshot of nearby police and army barracks. But, despite calls for outside investigators be sent to find out what is really happening in Algeria, the international community watches, wrings its hands, and heeds President Zeroual's warning not to interfere. "A solution to this conflict must come from the Algerians themselves," the Foreign Office said last night. Or, as the Foreign Minister of France, Algeria's former colonial power, recently said: "We cannot do nothing. But what can we do?"

Chaos and war make poor poorer

- ing unau

More than 20 of the world's poorest countries are in "economic and social regress". according to a United Nations report on least-developed nations published vesterday.

The average income per capita of these 22 has declined by at least 10 per cent since 1980 and in half of them most people now eat fewer calories per day than they did 10 years ago.

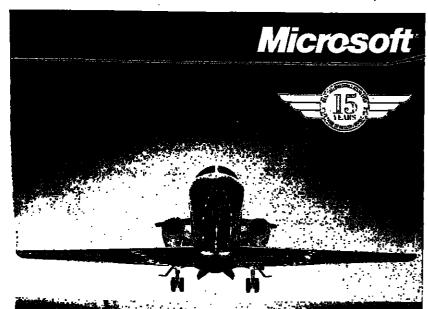
In eight of the regressing notions infant mortality rates increased sharply between 1985 and 1995. The report blames their decline on civil war and chaotic or non-existent governments. The list includes the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). Liberia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Haiti and Mynamar (Burma). But there are hopeful signs from the 48 nations classed as least developed, which are home to onetenth of the Earth's population.

In the face of declining overseas aid from rich countries, huge foreign debts and next to no private sector investment, several have enjoyed real gains in prosperity during the 1990s. The success stories include Uganda, Tanzania and Mozambique.

- Nicholas Schoon



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Germany agrees to stay in £40bn Eurofighter project

Volker Ruhe, the German defence minister, last night banished any remaining doubts over his country's commitment to the £40bn Eurofighter programme. "The coalition has agreed, it's fully funded for five years, and it will be voted through as part of our 1998 budget in November," he said before a meeting with the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, in London last night.
"It's in the bag," Mr Rube said.

Britain, which has a £15bn share in the Eurofighter, has put strong pressure on Bonn stay in the project, despite demands in Germany for the project be scrapped in order to cut public spending and enable the country to meet the Maastricht criteria for the single European currency

Basque guerrillas shot dead

Two suspected members of the Basque separatist guerrilla group ETA were killed early on Wednesday in a shootout with Civil Guard soldiers, Spanish officials said. The gun battle heof a home in the Basque city of Bilbao to identify three people living there, regional government authorities said.

Dinosaur falls to pieces

Clumsy removal workers created a dinosaur jigsaw puzzle by dropping a 75-million-year-old skeleton outside the Museon museum in The Hague, which is preparing for the Dutch premier of Stephen Spielberg's film The Lost World. A centerpiece was to have been the skeleton of a duck-billed hypacrosaurus, which had been painstakingly put together in Canada. It is now broken in 188 places. "Dropping it is like dropping a Van Gogh painting," a witness said. "People just stood and wept."

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THE INDEPENDENT



God and mammon go to battle over the soul of a saint



Colourful past: A stained-glass image of St Boniface, who is set to be the patron saint of Europe, in a church window in Crediton, Devon, where he is the subject of a trademark dispute

Cult figure with a frosty touch who brings destruction to Hungary's vineyards

Dokkum on 5 June in the year of 754. According to semi- his mark in Hesse, Thuringia bistorical legend, he was "struck and Bavaria. down" by heathers, although his demise are shrouded in

war make

teres to staying Whiter project

trillas shot des

lis to purces

His life in the German-Speaking lands is better documented, however, Bonifatius, as he is known in his adopted

Winfrid of Wessex. Apostle of land, had come to preach the as Bishop of Mainz, the south- is in awe of this son of Devon. the Germans", met his death in Gospel to Germans in 716, the tiny Friesian village of making his way south from the Friesian islands, and leaving

In 722 he was made a bishthe precise circumstances of op in recognition for his work among the Germans. He went on to consolidate the church's power in Salzburg, Freising, Passau, Regensburg, and founded parishes in Erfurt and Würzhurg. In 747 he took over

em German city which remains In Hangarian folklore, Bonia bastion of Catholicism in

Germany. Bonifatius the Holy is buried in the crypt of the cathedral of Pulda, the focus of his cult. Hundreds of churches, schools, kindergartens and libraries across Germany bear his name, and the date of his death is venerated as a holy

day.
Not all of Catholic Europe

fatius is the third and last of the "frosty saints", bringing destruction to vineyards on his

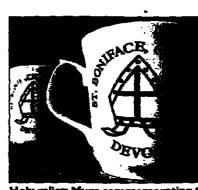
holy day almost every year. If the vintage is poor, Bonifatius and the other two rogue saints invariably get the blame. Whatever else he might be in Germany and Devon, in Hungary Bonifatius is the patron saint of plonk.

An unholy row has broken out in the rural town of Crediton in Devon where a local businessman is trying to patent the name of its most famous celebrity, St Boniface. But the residents believe that no individual has the right to monopolise the name of a saint Amanda Kelly reports.

The presence of St Boniface can be felt all over the small rural town of Crediton, with statues, festivals and plaques set up in his honour and many of the town's souvenirs bearing his name. Every year hundreds of tourists flock to the town to pay their respects to the Saxon monk who is believed to have lived there in the late 7th century. But now the churchman, who is also the patron saint of Germany and the Netherlands, has become embroiled in a battle between God and mammon.

The storm erupted over a trademark application by Andrew Haigh, a busines to control the name of St Boniface. If successful, it means that any manufactures or tourist body will have to seek his permission before they can use the saint's name. The move has sparked fury among local residents and the town council.

Town councillor Sally Beament said: "St up the Christmas tree, could become espe-



Holy relics: Mugs commemorating the saint sell to tourists in his 'home town'

Boniface is the most famous figure to come out of Crediton and he is very important to the town. We are extremely concerned that if Mr Hague gets the application approved, it would mean St Boniface's name could not be used in any tourist publication without his permission and, presumably, without paying. So at a council meeting this week we have decided to put in our own trademark application to protect St Boniface, and, if we are successful, we will not be after any financial gain at all."

Saints have been trademarked in the past, the case of St Michael and Marks & Spencer being the most famous example. But St Boniface, who is reputed to have thought

cially lucrative if plans to make him the

patron saint of Europe are successful. Professor Henry Mayr-Harting, Regius Professor of ecclesiastical history at Oxford University and a particular fan of St Boniface, said: "The idea that Boniface should be patented for financial gain is dreadful ... I do, however, agree that it is quite fit-

ting to make him the patron saint of Europe ... In my opinion, he had more influence in the life and politics of Europe than any other Englishman ever and it's pretty below the belt for one man to try and corner him for himself.'

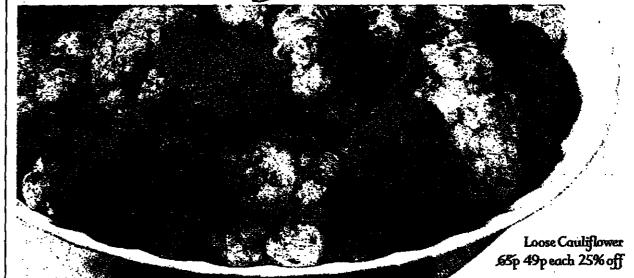
But Mr Haigh insists that he is not af-

ter personal gain. "I moved to Crediton three years ago," he said, "and it was a dead and dying town that needed to be uplifted. The only thing it has to market itself with is St Boniface and I explained this to the town council in 1995 but it didn't want to know, so I have done it myself. The Pope is being requested that St Boniface become the patron saint of the whole of Europe so

. the export potential is huge ... We are also trying to benefit a lot of other people along the way. We are setting up a scheme that will help small Devonshire manufacturers to sell their goods, as well as helping to market the town itself.

"Some of the licensing funds will also go to an education fund to help underprivileged children. But I personally will not make a single penny out of all this."

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Meanwhile, put 1/2 a pack each of fresh flat parsley, fresh mint and fresh basil, a clove of garlic, I tablespoon of Dijon mustard and Itablespoon of capers into a food processor. Blend, adding 3 tablespoons of olive oil and a tablespoon of lemon juice. Season to taste.

Drain the vegetables and put into a serving dish. Pour dressing over and sprinkle the bacon on top. Leave for 10 minutes before serving.

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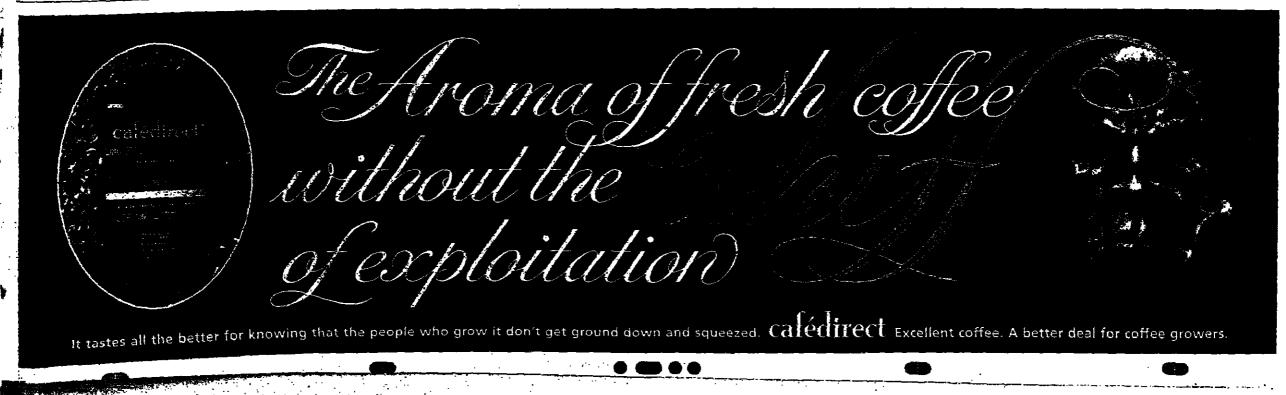
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Bombing truth is held captive in village under siege

Israel says it has identified the four suicide bombers who killed 20 Israelis in Jerusalem as coming from the Palestinian village of Azira Shamaliya on the West Bank. The village has been sealed off for five days. Patrick Cockburn evades Israeli troops to talk to relatives of the alleged bombers and the .Palestinian head of security who fears an all-out Israeli assault.

The siege lines are drawn tight around the Palestinian village of Azira Shamaliya, which Israel says was home to four young men in their twenties who blew themselves up in Jerusalem, killing 20 other people.

There is going to be a massacre here." says Major Hamad Sutki Rajeb, the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security police in this village of 10,000 Palestinians, as he trains his military binoculars at an Israeli patrol blocking the road half a mile away. "They tried to come into



Azira early this morning to ar- side of a steep hill just north of selves up on 30 July and 4 Seprest three people they would not the West Bank city of Nablus. name and we stopped them."

last Saturday night, searching Israeli troops surrounded for relatives of the four suicide Azira Shamaliya, built on the bombers who had blown them-

tember. They were seeking relatives of the suspected bombers both to interrogate, and to pro-

Tuesday, the office of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, suddenly announced Israel knew the identity of at least three of the bombers who had attacked Mahane Yehuda market and Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall. It named Mouai'ia Jarar'a, Bashar Zoualha and Touwafik Yassin, all from Azira Shamaliya, and said that another local man, Yosef Shouli, was suspected of being the fourth bomber. The facts are not easy to check. Every road and track around the

checkpoint. The West Bank is a curious checkerboard of competing authorities. In Azira Shamaliya the Palestinian Authority is in theory in charge of civilian matters, while security is still handled by Israel, as it is in every so-called "Area B" - a district of joint control set up for the interim stage of the Oslo accords. It is only in cities such as nearby Nablus that Palestinians exercise full control. But the real situation haven't seen seen of them for Shin Bet for questioning re-tinian hands.

village is cut off by an Israeli

is very different. In practice, the Palestinian Authority has security control of every West Bankvillage on a day-to-day basis. Using a grocery store in a nearby village as their headquarters, two members of the Palestinian Preventive Security were watching developments in Aziriya Shamaliya. They said they knew of one road which the Israelis were not guarding. This turned out to be a dirt track winding along the floor of a dry wadi for three or four miles between the olive groves.

We were not the only ones to know that the Israeli siege of the village had a hole in it. Coming in the opposite direction through a cloud of dust came a car driven by Hassan Shouli, a tractor driver, who said he had come to look for food for his family. Asked about the alleged suicide bombers, Mr Souli added: "Actually, I am related to all four of them. I can't really tell you whether what the Israelis say is true or not. I

some time. But I don't think the Israelis are absolutely certain because they are still looking for people."

This is probably true. The Israeli press said the Israeli army and the Shin Bet intelligence service were amazed by the announcement by Mr Netanyahu's office giving details of the investigation before it was completed. Their main interest is to identify not only the bombers, but also to unravel their network and discover the names of the leaders of Hamas. the Islamic militant movement, who gave them their orders.

Mr Netanyahu's agenda is rather different. He wants to prove to international, and above all US opinion, that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, is not liquidating the infrastructure of Izzedine al-

cide bombers were wanted by

An Israeli victim of three Palestinian suicide bombers who blew themselves up in Jerusalem on 4 September. Israeli security forces have sealed off the village they claim is the home of the bombers

Photograph: Nati Shohat

notion cc

icon ferromanne consultation

garding their involvement in a shooting at an army patrol at Ein Bidan near Nablus in December 1996, in which an army doctor and a soldier were wounded.

Israel says the four men were arrested by the Palestinian Authority after the suicide hombings in early in 1996, but had escaped from Nablus prison in September. The official statement adds that the four young men from Azira Shamaliya were among 88 alleged members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, another Islamic militant organisation, given to the Palestinians for arrest after the Mahane Yehuda bomb-

In the village, the families of the alleged bombers adamantly denied that their sons were dead. Fatmi Yassin, with seven sons and six daughters, said: "My son didn't do it. My son is not a terrorist. I think you will see him later." Asked . if she expected her house to be demolished by Israel, she said: "My house is not better than my son. Before they knock it down they should show me his body to prove that he is dead."

In Jerusalem Mr Netanyahu was claiming the suicide bombers had got their orders from Hamas in Nablus, which is under Mr Arafat's control. The Palestinian leader, receding from his claim that the bombers had come from abroad, said that in any case Azira Shamliya was under Israeli security control.

Both sides are wrong. If Is-Qassem, the military wing of rael had full security control of the village it would not be nec-The official announcement essary to besiege it. The realisaid all four of the alleged sui- ty of power in Azira Shamliya has already passed into Pales-

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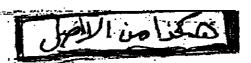
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17/POLITICS

Key motion could lift Ulster talks out of the trenches

Substantive negotiations on Northern Ireland's future appear ready to open on Monday as the multi-party talks looked set to surmount a significant hurdle. David McKittrick reports.

The British and Irish governments and eight of the ten Northern Ireland parties were last night looking close to clearing the last pro-

serious political negotiations. They were that the party contained "unreconstructed prepared by the two governments which is igned to catapult the talks out of the procedural trench warfare in which they have been embroiled since July of last year.

If the agreement on the motion is reached, it will signal the end of the protracted "talks about talks phase" and open the way for real political negotiation.

The British government is expected to reject an Ulster Unionist Party demand for cedural hurdle which stands in the way of the expulsion of Sinn Fein on the grounds the expulsion issue.

about to agree the terms of a key motion, terrorists" who remained uncommitted to principles of non-violence and democracy.

Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is likely to declare that the party had not breached the six Mitchell

Despite protests, David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, are almost certain to accept the ruling, having committed themselves by making it clear that they would remain in the talks process even if they lost out on

It was also expected that the Canadian general, John de Chastelein, would head the international body which is to deal with the issue of arms decommissioning in parallel with the political talks.

Opinions differed yesterday on whether the decommissioning issue, on which the Ulster Unionist Party had once laid so much store, had effectively been set aside or had simply been parked to be the subject of further controversy at a later stage.

The governments' procedural motion has the effect of moving the talks on from

agenda item 2A. concerning decommissioning, where they had been lodged for almost a year. The talks are going on in the absence of two secondary Unionist parties. the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and Robert McCartney's UK Union-

The substantive negotiations have been organised into three strands dealing with the internal administration of Northern Ireland, North-South relations and overarching relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

continue to campaign for the removal of Sinn Fein. He declared: "This was not just a one-off gesture on our part. If they do not exclude Sinn Fein now we will come back to this issue again and again and we are quite confident that other facts will

"The facts are not available on the Markethill bomb yet, but they will be soon. We will come back to this issue - it is not just Sinn Fein that is on trial, it is the Labour government that is on trial."

Irvine defies Cabinet line on pay to keep ahead of judges

The Lord Chancelior is taking a £35-a-week pay increase from 1 December, in spite of Tony Blair's appeal for pay restraint from the Cabinet. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says Lord Irvine of Lairg is more worried about his differential over judges than setting an example for public sector pay.

Lord Irvine, who was heavily criticised for allowing an expensive refurbishment of his official residence at Westminster, is refusing to toe the Cabinct line over his pay.

The Lord Chancellor will take a pay increase of £1,800 in December to a total £142,508 in spite of the appeals for pay restraint by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

"The Lord Chancellor will not be waiving the 1 December increase. The link with the Lord Chief Justice's salary as prescribed by statute, will be to take office in the Governmaintained," said a spokesman ment as the country's senior law

Under a 1991 ministerial lor receives £2,500 more than and those of the judges. the Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Irvine intends to make sure that gap is maintained. He served notice that he will

keep his differentials over the judiciary by taking another rise next April, following the recommendations of the senior salaries review body, which is due to report in January.

seen as flouting the lead given by the Prime Minister and it may ruffle more Cabinet feathers. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has had the task of reaching a Cabinet consensus to forgo their pay increases of £16,000 and a deal could be announced today setting out new linkage with civil servants to avoid further embarrassment for Cabinet ministers.

The confusion over Cabinet pay brought another broadside yesterday from John Redwood, the Tory trade spokesman. He said: "Given all that these politicians have said about fat cats and large pay awards in the past I find it extraordinary there should be any argument. These politicians should turn down the money and leave more cash for our hospitals instead."

"Derry" Irvine is a close friend of the Blairs - the Prime Minister and his wife Cherie met as student barristers in Lord Irvine's chambers - and he is being given special dispensation to break the Cabinet line

It was confirmed that having given up a reported £500,000 from a lucrative legal practice for the Lord Chancellor's office. officer, Lord Irvine's main concern was to keep up the differsalaries act, the Lord Chancel- entials between his own salary

In April, the salary went up from £134,678 to £140,665 while Mackay of Clashfern, was still in office. No press release was issued by the Lord Chancellor's department but an "information sheet" was made available for anyone who raised questions with Lord Irvine's office about Lord Irvine's action may be his pay.



Pat Lally, Lord provost of Glasgow city council, surrounded by microphones at a press conference after the suspensions yesterday

Photograph: Photo News

Lord Provost holds onto his post after Labour suspension

his Tory predecessor, Lord cil, remained defiant last night, saying be would continue in his elected position in spite of being suspended from acting as a Labour councillor. Pledging to clear his name, he said: "There is no reason why I should not continue as Lord Provost and I certainly intend to continue.

Mr Lally was one of nine councillors yesterday suspended by the Labour's ruling national executive (NEC), with only Dennis Skinner and

hitting report into the allegations, which included claims of councillors offering their votes in the council in return for foreign junkets. Mr. Skinner said later that there was insufficient evidence. The former leader Jean McFadden was appointed acting leader until elections in the Labour group in three weeks' time.

funds for trips, there were threats of violence Alex Mosson, and Jim Mutter, the parks and

leagues; and breaches of the rules for the declaration of interests. The nine councillors will be given a hearing, but those found guilty of bring-

ing the party into disrepute could be expelled. Mr Lally was among five councillors who were suspended from the Labour group, but not from my Graham, following the allegations of a all posts in the party. The others were Bob Gould, The NEC heard that in addition to using the the Labour group leader, Gordon Macdiarmid,

Pat Lally, the Lord Provost of Glasgow city coun- Diane Abbott voting against, following a hard-made against Labour councillors by their col-recreation convener. Four others who were suspended from all roles in the party were: Elaine Smith, Deirdre Gaughan, Heather Ritchie and Jim Sharkey.

In a separate move the Labour NEC also endorsed the suspension of the Labour MP. Tomsmear campaign in a suicide note by Gordon Mc-Master, the MP for Paisley South.

- Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent

Prescott remains unconvinced by advocates of electoral reform

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott yesterday set his face against reform of the voting system in local government. Colin Brown says that after the chumminess shown towards Paddy Ashdown, Mr Prescott provides an antidote.

"I'm not a fan of PR," John Prescott declares in a pre-conference interview. The SEcretary of State for the Environment, Transport and

the Regions does not want proportional representation in local government, but he makes it clear he will take a lot of persuading before he accepts it for

Westminster, PR could be one of the sticking points in the coming year for his loyalty. Tony Blair has shown a readiness to draw the Liberal Democrats into the Government, but he too has said he has yet to be persuaded about the advantages of PR for the Commons.

That has not stopped speculation that the momentum is gathering for PR in Westminster, with the possibility that Lord Jenkins, the Liberal De-



mocrat peer, could be ap-pointed to head a review withthe next few weeks.

The Deputy Prime Minister sets himself against PR for local government in the New

Statesman before next week's

annual Labour Party Conference, where Mr Prescott is set to be one of the stars of the celebratory show.

He also sets out the difficulties which will delay the imple-

government with directly elected authorities until after the next election. "In England you need to do something about the local government structure, which makes it much more difficult. "In the early 1980s I argued

then you have to ask - what is the role for the counties? Then there is the question of boundaries. Is Cumberland in the North-west or the North-east? Arguments such as this have always plagued this debate ... So in my mind, establishing proper regional assemblies, based on local accountability, is a matter for the back end of this Parliament or the next term.

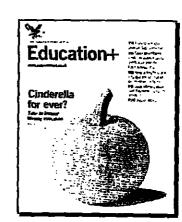
He does not deny that there have been tensions involving other ministers over the compromise plan to go forward with regional assemblies appointed from councils but says they have been based on mis-

for a two-tier structure but understandings. There have been matters of real concern for David [Blunkett] and Margaret [Beckett] but we have made it clear in discussions with them that this isn't a bid for development agencies to take over everything that's regional. The departments will still retain the budgets. The chambers would work within frameworks laid down by central

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Salmond calls for co-operation politics as Scots begin to cut apron strings

The Scottish National Party is preparing for a constructive role in the halfway house of a devolved parliament. Stephen Goodwin is at the SNP's conference in Rothesay.

To the casual observer at Rothesay pier vesterday Alex Salmond must have looked like a political leader who had independence in his grasp.

As he greeted colleagues getting off the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from the mainland, a piper played (Scotland the Brave, inevitably) and the glistening Firth of Clyde

was milipond calm. Party officials were quick to liken the scene to the mood of the party. This year has seen the SNP double its number of MPs to six, despite the Labour tide, and a more convincing than expected vote of approval for a Scottish parliament.

But with a possible place in the coalition that will run as Scotland's first home-rule administration, assuming PR elections result in no party having overall control, Mr Salmond is playing a cautious game.

At a press conference yesterday he indicated an interest in collaborating with the Liberal Democrats in a Scottish parliament while also defending Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, against sug-

gestions that he should have been aware of the troubles within Glasgow Labour Party. Mr Salmond announced he

was writing to Mr Dewar and other party leaders in Scotland proposing formal talks on how the new parliament should operate. If the parties could agree on procedures such as working hours and scrutiny of proposals rather than point-scoring, then Scotland's first parliament in 300 years need not spend its first six months navel-

azing. Mr Salmond said. The four-day conference would begin the process of developing what Mr Salmond called a "radical and exciting policy agenda" for the first elections to the Scottish parliament

Climate set for modernising Plaid Cymru leaders to seize the Welsh political agenda

a roll Last week's referendum result has boosted Plaid Cymru. its annual conference begins today and the

Welsh nationalism is on

party is in an optimistic mood, says Tony Heath.

leadership said yesterday.

The time is right for Plaid Cymru to seize the Welsh political agenda, the party's Plaid Cymru's part in securing a "yes" vote in last week's devolution referendum

when voters in traditional na-

tionalist areas and Labour

ity for an elected assembly - is cited with satisfaction by Marc Phillips, the party chairman. Speaking on the eve of the conference in Aberystwyth,

Mr Phillips, 43, a moderniser and pragmatist looked forward to a change in the political weather. "Plaid Cymru is now operating in a different atmosphere. The script is about an assembly taking office in Cardiff in a couple of years' time. This is our opportunity to seize the Welsh political agenda," he declared yesterday.

Some of the conference's own agenda would find approval with the Labour left. There are calls for a minimum wage of £4.26 an hour, the destrongholds in the valleys com- commissioning of Trident and bined to deliver a slim major- a revision of immigration laws.

None of the 39 resolutions for debate at the mid-Wales resort in the next 48 hours mentions the Weish language. That is an admission that with the setting up by the Tory government of the Welsh Language Board chaired by Lord Elis-Thomas, a

former nationalist MP, cultur-

al peace has broken out. None of this distracts the nationalists from concentrating on 1999 when elections to both the Welsh Assembly and the European Parliament are due.

Dafydd Wigley MP, the party president, is optimistic: "We start from a good performance at the general election when against the huge Labour tidal wave sweeping Wales we held our four seats and increased our vote in target constituencies."

Will Norman Foster and **Anthony Caro cross the** Thames in a blaze of glory?

The Millennium Bridge, from St Paul's to the Tate at Bankside, would be a wondrous sight and a wondrous walk. It would also be the first Norman Foster work to have a dramatic presence in London. But, writes Nonie Niesewand, before it can be built, Southwark and the Corporation of the City of London both must say yes, and there are few bodies more different in wealth and taste.

It would be like a blade of light skimming the Thames, a footbridge 300 metres long and four metres wide from the riverfront steps of St Paul's to the new Tate at Bankside.

Slender as it is, this tightrope of a suspension bridge will have no Indiana Jones tilt and sway - the vibration, one quiver in three seconds, will be unnoticeable. Though anchored on two slender concrete piers, the Thames's two seven-metre tides a day will leave it unmoved. It will cost £10m, a little more than building a fourstorey office block; £5m of it National Lottery money, matched by another £3m from sponsors (Southwark Council has already put up £1m). Subject to planning permission from Southwark and City Corporation of London it will open as a footbridge in the summer of 2000.

Designed by Norman Foster with the sculptor Anthony Caro and the engineer Chris Wise of Ove Arup, it emerged as winner of the competition run last year by The Financial Times in the face of 220 entries from all over the world, including the great Frank Gehry. You can see why they all entered - the chance to span the Thames at such a spot is a fabulous opportunity for an architect. Whether other people - local residents and councils and City types - are similarly enthused is another mat-

Bridges make connections. They bridge gaps, but some gaps are more difficult than others. Take, for example, the difficulty of ver getting things built when two planning committees from two highly conrasting boroughs have to reach the same lecision: the richest borough in London, City Corporation, and the poorest, Southvark. People on either side of the river nave been invited to public exhibitions of he winning scheme. They have studied the ige proposals at RIBA and at St Paul's at present the Millennium Bridge proosal is on view at the Design Museum in ondon - and many have willingly comrended it.

Detractors are mainly in the City and nostly fretting about the view of St Paul's om the river. Actually, it opens up the ew of St Paul's from the river but those assing under the bridge in a boat will lose ght of St Paul's for a nano-second when e concrete pier blocks it. An architect to has built a lot on the waterfront, Piers ough, expressed his reservations about e need for a new bridge over the names at the English Heritage brainstorm ssion this summer. "Is there any doubt at it's a one-stop bridge bringing tourists the new Tate?" he asked. As it will be : world's largest gallery and MORI pret over six million people a year between Paul's and Bankside, that would be some

In any case, Gough's interpretation is hly questionable. As David Bell, chair-

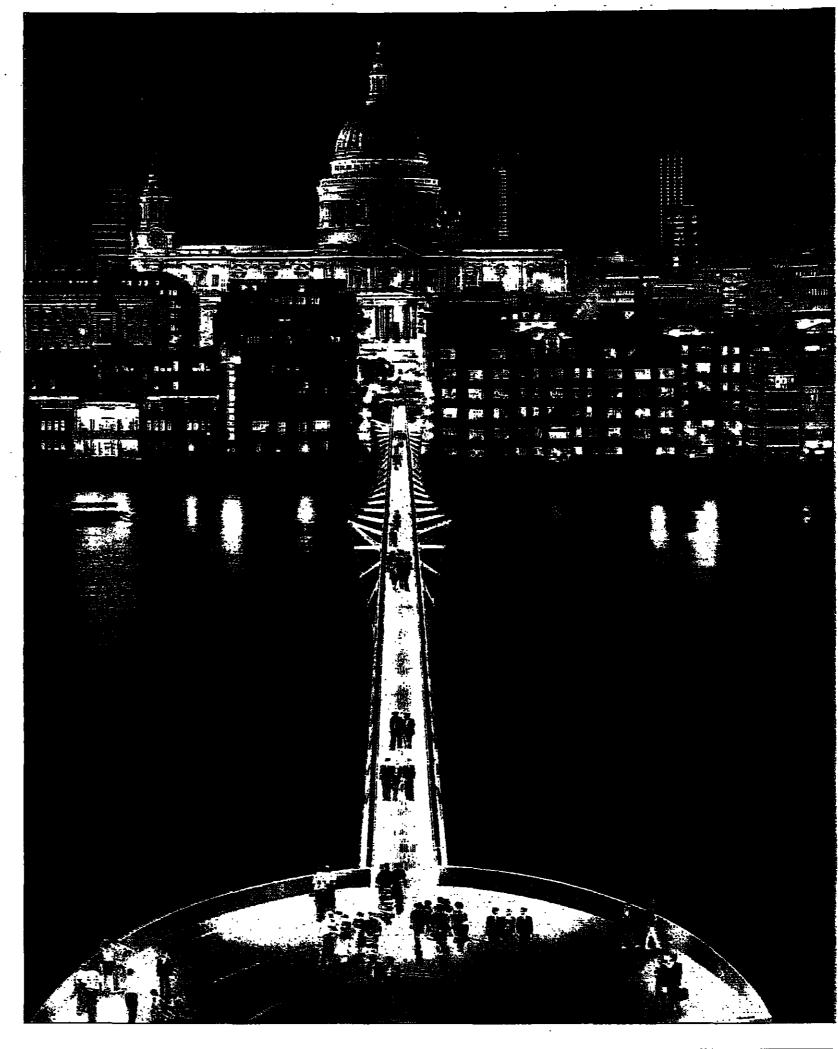
The Financial Times which sponsored the competition, is anxious to point out, the Millennium Mile on the riverfront to which the bridge would lead has plenty of "stops", from the County Hall aquarium at one end and the Globe and the Rose theatres at the other, as well as the Lambeth Palace gardens, the proposed wheel and the Lido for which planning application has been made, Waterloo terminus and a new Imax cinema. Besides, people from both sides of the river will walk to work across it. True, there will be an enclosed pedestrian crossing on the Blackfriars Bridge road and rail link nearby, but crossing that will hardly be an experience of the same order.

"The bridge will link two sides of the Thames at an historic point and give free access to the largest gallery in Europe. It will be the most permanent symbol of the millennium in the city. The Millennium Bridge is very beautiful and of our age. It will last," says Bell.

It will also be an opportunity, the first, for Norman Foster, the greatest British architect this century, to build something really eye-catching in the capital. The buildings for which Foster is famous are all abroad, buildings such as the waterfront Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and the Olympic telecommunications tower piercing the blue skies of Barcelona like a javelin. Admittedly London does sport his Sackler Gallery extension at the Royal Academy, and a gem of a building it is, but too small and concealed to be a landmark.

But these days it is not enough for architects to design the world's most beautiful buildings or bridges. They have to sell them as well. To Fine Arts, to English Heritage, the lottery funding, sponsors to match any lottery money, and patrons if they don't get either. All summer Daniel Libeskind has been on his feet at the Victoria & Albert Museum, waving an origami-like paper model of his Spiral to win over critics and talk through their fears on his proposed extension there. Stamina is what the V&A looked for when they told him his competition entry had won. The bigger the name, the bigger the hassle. So Norman Foster, who put together a slide show on the Millennium Bridge to present designs, has put in more performances than a star actor playing in repertoire at the National Theatre. Now his stand-in, Andy Bow from Foster Associates, delivers the lecture complete with laser pen pinpointing the slides. It starts cubes balanced on pieces of paper and teaspoons across the void, which explains the relaxed way in which all three work together. Norman Foster recalls the thrill of "walking on water in a blade of light," which is the way that Anthony Caro infused them with the magic of the project in the first place.

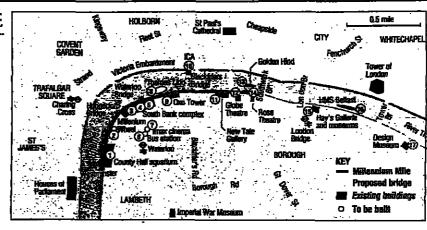
As the project has evolved, and changes have been made to accommodate the judges and respond to public concerns, there have been many changes. First, the bridge was spanned in glass but people feared they'd slip, so now it is decked in teak. A backlit glass panel runs the length of the 300 metres, bank to bank, because that strip of light makes people feel more secure. Chris Wise had to address fears about the wind in mid-crossing on a had day, so the bridge was tested twice in Canadian wind tunnels at fierce velocities and as a consequence the balustrading thickened and curved to deflect currents. Anthony Caro's sculptural n of Pearsons, and chief executive of entrances to the bridge came under rejump off it.



view for wheelchair access - no changes in level or stairs - and unexpectedly, for their art. Nicholas Serota of the Tate and de Meuron, his architect for Bankside, didn't want the curvaceous cog-like Caro sculpture that was planned to stand on the sculpture forecourt of the new Bankside and anchor the suspension cables. So Caro wistfully replaced it with a boulder on that side and has set to work to design two gateway pavilions to mark the St Paul's side. With good humour, the Gladiatorial team have shown that they can listen and adapt the Millennium Bridge design. The only criticism that they have been unable to answer is that people may want to

MILLENNIUM MILE

Those who cross this bridge from St Paul's (if bridge there be) will walk on to a South Bank packed with pleasures. In the Eighteenth century Londoners went south of the river for their amusements; momentarily they did so again in 1951 for the Festival of Britain but, since then, pace Ken Livingstone and Tony Banks's efforts, people have gone there exclusively for high culture. Come the millennium, however, it. will, as this map shows, be irresistible in the variety of its pleasures



TARTS THIS SATURDAY THE INDEPENDENT

STIRLING PRIZE

The pick of British architecture now

student digs at Trinity and the shop at Lord's cricket ground are among the 52 buildings chosen today for their architectural merit by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

It is only the second year of category awards in houses and housing, conservation, commercial, health, education and leisure buildings, and civic and community centres. The winners of each category will be shortlisted for the Stirling Prize to be announced at the end of November, and on 3 November community housing. all 52 projects will be exhibited at Riba. They make up an instant photo-fit of what's happening in building around the country and in Europe.

Urban regeneration is a constant theme, with a Victorian stone water tank in Huddersfield skilfully converted by Mark Lee into a roundhouse. The old Luma lighting factory in Glasgow turned into 43 apartments by Cornelie McClyumont Architects meant changing the windows to put two extra floors into the high-ceilinged plant. Built in 1938 to coincide with

sympathetic restoration by Lifschutz Davidson of London's landmark Oxo building on the Thames repackages a redundant warehouse as community housing with designer studios and the Harvey Nichols restaurant on built in the 1930s, with the windows spelling out the name of the beef extract warehoused there, the Oxo building today signals changing demographics: fewer beef eaters, more

There are some firsts. The first lottery-funded project to be sculpture in the light-filled conawarded architecturally is the King's Lynn Corn Exchange. Levitt Bernstein Associates turned the Grade II listed build- a Ben Nicholson," Riba judges ing dating from 1854 into an adaptable arts centre with two riverfront theatres fitted with tractable seats. A bit of lottery money was used to rig out the interiors of Belfast Waterfront Hall by Robinson & McIlwaine bration of the Jubilee jam--and to light it - but none went

into the building. Also for the first time Riba the Empire Exhibition, the fac- included across all the cate- could well be in their own cattory was derelict. Now its white gories huildings by British ar- egory.

A boat house, a Parisian flat, rationalist façade is a hand- chitects in Europe. A chic some addition to Glasgow. The Parisian flat by Mark Guard, a young architect adept at turning tiny spaces into penthouses on low budgets, proves that it is possible to make an eightmetre by four-metre apartment in a Thirties block look spacious His glass, steel and wooden intop. An advertising coup when teriors have a cool contemporary metropolitan feel.

Small houses in the private sector prove that people are more positively disposed towards architects. Some patrons use architects on tiny projects almost as high art. Original sash windows used as a niche for version by Stickland Coome of a gloomy basement dining room in London have "the quality of

There are monuments, too, like the handsome pale green hydraulic platforms and re- steel and glass train depot by Chris Wilkinson at Stratford on the extended Jubilee line in London. This is the first celeboree and there is so much happening that by the end of the century Jubilee buildings

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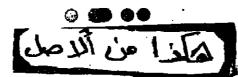
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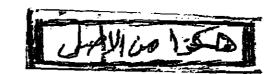
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25 SEPTEMBER 1997



19/FEATURES

A modest proposal: try eating with the television off

What does Mary Whitehouse often do while she's eating dinner? She watches television (if there's something suitable on, of course). John Sessions, on the other hand, never does. These lays there are more of us who behave like her than him. And more's the pity, says Nicholas Roe. He thinks that it is high time that we put aside our remote controls, got back round the table and talked to each other.

John Sessions is spewing out a torrent of bile which sums up his opinion of society's most pervasive vice. Sex? Cars? Drugs? No. The thing that really scares actor Sessions is ... eating dinner in front of the telly.

"I hate it," he fizzes, "I did it last night with friends, they asked me for a meal and there was a lot of telly blaring and I didn't like it at all. Television is the opiate of mealtimes. It's a mainline narcotic which I avoid. I'm one of those people who select what they watch - maybe 10 programmes a week. Why do people do it? Because it takes away the awful silences. When you can think of nothing to say to your wife or children you are comforted by the fact that you can cast an eye on Dale Winton..."

Here's the sting: if you think Sessions is over the top then you are part of a new and growing moral majority. A survey for market analysts Key Note recently found that two-thirds of Britons eat their evening meal in front of the television and the trend is increasing. The family meal is dying on its sofas. All those end-of-day catch-ups; all that witty banter. Gone.

There's a confusion here. he is voicing something that is probably instinctive in all of us - because telly-dining arguably threatens virtues we would otherwise support: communication, the sensible division of pleasures, family life...

Yet everybody's at it. Not just on paper, and not just the masses. Researching this article I spoke to a leading mem-

ber of the Arts Council, an entrepreneur, a literary agent, a nutritionist, and ≠ most ironically of all - that arch campaigner against TV values, Mary Whitehouse. All admitted that to some degree they are guilty of TV dining.

My own feeling is that Sessions is right: the habit threatens to make Teletubbies of us all. But in the face of that kind of evidence it is clearly time to look at the defence. And the fact is, it's impressive.

Item: Juliet Burton, She's a

pleasant, attractive London literary agent with a husband and nine-year-old daughter to go home to. But does she TV-dine? "Yes," she says, "I'm embarrassed to say it but I have to be honest. I would say, five nights out of seven. Usually, my daughter Gemma will have her grub and sit in front of the TV and I'm drinking heavily while Michael will still be working upstairs ... and then usually, we'll have ours watching telly too."

Why? "It's a habit we got into when we went out all the time and were never at home in the evening. We would be out at the pub - even at cultural events and get home and have a quick snack in front of the TV. That's how it started. Then when Gemma was born we stopped going out but the habit was ingrained by then." So it's the product of an ac-

tive social life, clearly tweaked by exhausting days. Fair enough, though Ms Burton admits: "I think it's pretty awful," and when you ask why not stop and just talk, she says, "We talk over telly all the time any-

Move on, Gillian Brierley is development manager for the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. She's 30, lives alone and eats at home maybe three times a week: "I do eat in front of the telly when I'm by myself," she admits. "Not always, but the majority of the time."

Why? "Eating in silence surely? When Sessions errors makes you textility aware that he is voicing something that is you are by yourself and silence can be quite a harrowing thing." How about music? "Television is more instantly eneaging than the radio. It's right there in your face." So TV is a partner, too. The

virtues mount. Gavin Henderson is principle of Trinity College of Music, and chairman of the Arts Council's music pan-



Photograph: Tony Buckingham

ducer so to that extent TV features in our lives, except I don't watch very much," he says, "But when I do, it is true. I tend to eat with it. It tends to be a video because I go to live music programmes almost every night and it tends to be with a take-away Chinese meal."

Isn't he, of all arty people, ashamed of himself? "Not in the least. I sort of feel guilty that I don't watch more TV because of the notion of popular culture."

So what does he watch? "I have a certain guilt that I spend so much of my time going to quite demanding performances that when I watch TV I love crap. I love retinal massage. Stuff that floats in front of my eyes. The Bill, for instance."

Complaints elsewhere, please, but you see the point. For Mr Henderson, TV meals amount to research and - as perhaps with Ms Burton - a kind of therapy. It's almost

John Standing owns a catering business in Brighton, and he has good reasons to watch, too: "I have been living with someone in the past and in that scenario we used to sit down and exchange thoughts at the end of the day," he says. "But now I tend to walk in and rather than just be in the house with nothing I may have TV on - Sky News or something in the background. If I'm going to eat around the time the news comes on I will probably take more a time management thing

Hurry on to Mrs Whitehouse. From her I was expecting an earful. Not a bit of it. "I think a lot depends on what is on," she said. "As far as we are concerned, my husband and I want to watch the news and if that comes on at the same time as our meal then we will . Walkman. TV dining at any levwatch it while we have our

And there we are. Defence rests. Everyone has a good reason to eat in front of the television for at least part of every week. It is a habit ingrained by the good life, it is company, efficiency, cultural investigation, news concern and efficient time

But of course, the whole point about pervasive plea-

el. "I'm married to a TV pro- levels of justification. What would the prosecution say?

John Sessions traces his own resentment back to childhood memories of Vietnam war coverage. "My parents always had the TV on at mealtimes and 1 was aware that there was something wrong with sitting there eating a burger with these images of GIs hauling through the jungle going on in the corner," he recalls. "I thought it was crazy, eating at the same time."

But many of those who now watch and eat clearly don't care what's on. Indeed, some view news as a more worthy accompaniment to food than. say, Absolutely Animals. Have we grown less sensitive? Or do TV dinners simply underline even protect - the blandness of what we watch? These are questions the prosecution might ask. And then there's the meal itself.

Dr' Michele Sadler of the British Nutrition Foundation says of TV dining: "You are focusing less on the food. There's no evidence that that has any effect on nutrient intake, but in terms of satisfaction you get from eating, if you see less, might you want to go and seck that satisfaction later? Maybe that should be investigated." Maybe it should. But Dr. Sadler says she TV dines "occasionally".

Sessions says he wishes he could be as funny professionally as he is over dinner with friends. Maybe any of us should ask ourselves when we last my dinner in and watch. But it's cracked a joke over telly. And singles might ask themselves when else in the day they experience silence. "It's just putting the problem on hold," is Sessions's view.

Personally, I'm with the prosecution. Too many mingled pleasures, one is never enough. Evidence: a ubiquitous can of Coke; an ever-present Sony el other than the most occasional is just another monument to greed.

Sentence? Make it community service. Eat with friends. Bring back candles and napkins and serviette rings and lacy table-cloths. Dress up the meal like some old partner who's run out of sexy ideas. Reach for the radio. Anything rather than the TV knob. You won't agree, of course. But then your sofa sures is that they find several is probably stained with gravy.

This week: how can I ask for a rise, after years on the same salary?



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

For 10 years, Hattie's been getting the same salary in a small firm. Her boss is sympathetic to the problems of a working mother, but now a junior position's been filled by a woman on much more money. How can Hattie screw up courage to ask for a rise?

Ten years seems an awfully long time to live on a sum that has, in terms of the cost of living, been getting continually smaller and smaller.

funny the enormous number of women who are so lacking in self-esteem that they would almost pay to have a job. And certainly women in highly important roles, such as actually seeing that the office runs OK, can mistake their role for motherhood and feel, deep down, that it is not right to ask for extra payment. Wages for housework has always seemed a hatty idea to me; but some women feel that wages for being mother hen to the firm is also rather odd, and though they know intellectually they should get paid, emotionally they feel surprised and grateful that they get anything at all. Add to this the family atmosphere of Hattie's small firm that her boss is very considerate to any problems with her children, allows her time off and so on - and a woman can often be bamboozled into feeling that it is just as good to be paid in kindness as in cash.

However, finally the worm has turned. If Hattic had been getting a bare 2 per cent a year since she started she'd be 35 per cent better off now, so she can use that sum as a guideline. Perhaps she should estimate the saving she's made in child care and balance the figure up.

The next step is to confront her boss. This is where she must he very careful. People who. stomp into bosses' offices whin-

ing about how unfair things are, and claiming they're being exploited, may possibly get the rise they want, but their complaints leave a nasty taste in everyone's mouth. It takes two Did Hattie keep her mouth shut because she thought she to do the paso doble, anyway, and Harrie has to take a fair bit was of no economic value? It's of blame for the situation since

> How she phrases her request is crucial. I suggest she makes a date to see her boss and then goes in with rather a sheepish smile on her face. "I must be the most forgetful woman around." she should say with a winsome smile, "because in all the time I've been here I've never asked for an increase. It seems to me that since I haven't asked, the least I could expect would be to be paid the same as the new woman you've employed, or perhaps 5 or 10 per cent more to reflect my seniority."

she's been a mouse for so long.

This way, she takes responsibility for not getting a rise and avoids confrontation.

What will be say? If Hattie is of economic value her boss may well appreciate the way she approaches the situation, and cough up. If he's been regarding her as a tiresome old bat for years and has just been exploiting her, he'll tell her that he can't afford any more and Hattie will have an idea how much she means to the firm.

Asking requires two things. A clear idea of what she wants, and courage. I once made eight appointments to see an erratic female editor, seven of which were cancelled. At the eighth she gave me a thumbs-down. It was humiliating, but at least I'd asked. And I left as soon as possible afterwards.

WHAT READERS SAY

Shock your employer and ask for more

You know the only solution for you is to approach your employer and to ask him for an appointment to discuss your situation. My situation is very similar to yours and when I finally popped that difficult question his first reaction was: "You are not leaving, are you?"

I have three young children and a husband who frequently travels abroad. I was very pleased to find a job locally where the atmosphere was very positive and understanding towards the combination of motherhood and work. I started this job three years ago and it became quickly apparent that I was able and willing to take on more and more interesting and responsible work. So my brief expanded but a raise in money was never mentioned.

Then a freelancer was hired to take over part of my more interesting work and was paid more per hour than I was per day! That did it for me. Like you, I was facing a very difficult decision because in the end, it is hard to combine motherhood with work.

This is what I did: I scanned all

and made a note of similar jobs and the salary. I wrote to one and got as far as an interview. That gave me the confidence to approach my boss. I set myself a date by which I had to ask him for an appointment. I admit it was in the last two minutes before I dared to do it. What happened was amazing: the moment I opened my mouth on this subject he was the one who became nervous and embarrassed. We had at first an open discussion to assess what we wanted from one another and for me it has worked out brilliantly: the freelancer is gone, another person is hired to do the administrative part of my job and I am left with doing

the papers for job advertisements

So Hattie, you are much more valuable than you think. I wish you C Maynard Smith, London

only the interesting work. I also

work less hours and received a pay

it's your duty to demand a better deal Yes, of course you're being taken

advantage of; and I've been there as

a widowed parent in the 1950s. Unofficial flexitime is seen by your employer as his benign "quid pro quo" - but always in his favour. He thinks he's doing you a favour, feels good about it, and is therefore off the book.

In the Seventies, as a daughter caring for elderly parents, I found a totally different attitude - which gave me freedom within limits of contact bours to attend the inevitable crises.

It's your bounden duty in the 1990s, and not only for your own sake, to tackle your boss, P.D.Q. about an official flexitime policy and a regular pay-review structure. However small the firm, both of these arrangements can be made openly and without any emotional blackmail.

Anne Crocker, Bath

Accept that it may be time to move on As a former manager (and employee) I know that bosses, like everyone else, take those close to them for granted. Your grievance will probably be greeted

Plan a date by which you will raise the issue of a pay rise. Prepare carefully, looking at advertisements for comparable jobs to gauge your market worth. You may want to apply for jobs, on a confidential basis, to get you in a positive frame

with genuine surprise.

of mind and give you a fall-back position. In the period before the discussion, do not sulk, simmer or work to rule". Be especially cheerful, industrious and smart.

When the appropriate moment comes, keep it factual and unemotional, don't give ultimatums and make it clear that you don't wish to ambush the boss into an instant response. Cite your worth in terms of the market and don't make too many comparisons with colleagues, which will only make you feel mean and your boss defensive. Don't be fobbed off with how flexible the firm has been. This is what businesses have to do these days to hold on to valuable employees who happen to be parents. Come to terms in advance with the fact that if you get nowhere, this may be time to move on. Karen Ludiow, London SW18

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

I have a daughter of 14 who is becoming very greedy. As a single parent I find it hard enough to pay the bills, and have always kept her well dressed, with occasional trips out to theatres, events and so forth. But she's lately been out with new friends who have tons of cash and

for £100 for a shopping trip and saywe are even worse off. I get family cred- a bouquet from Interflora. Send personal ing I don't love her when I can't do it. I have told her to ask her father, who has paid nothing towards her upkeep.

I'm lucky to have two part-time jobs. but this means no sick or holiday pay. Lately I've been crying, and so miser-Comments are welcome, and everyone she's become very demanding, asking able I've had to take days off sick, so who has a suggestion quoted will be sent like to share, please let me know.

it but I dread this ending when my daughter leaves school. What can I do?

experiences or comments to me at the Features Department, 'The Independent', I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182) by Tuesday morning, And if you have a dilemmas of your own that you would





LETTERS

Pleas for Saudi clemency, yes, but no more than that



FDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. **LONDON E14 5DL** TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Robin Cook got it exactly right when he said the objective is to avoid any death penalty and any lashes. Any British government, whatever its political complexion, however anxious it might be about trade or oil, could do no less than intercede to prevent brutal treatment of British citizens, guilty or innocent. But it need do no more than that, certainly not pander to the hysterical tone which has accompanied reporting of the accused British nurses in Saudi Arabia. We need to recognise this story is richly cross-cut by questions of cultural relativism, racism, Islam-phobia; it has also thrown up unsayoury evidence of prurience.

There are such things as universal human rights - that belief is a cornerstone of our civilisation - and they probably include protection against cruel and unusual punishment. But there are also such things as tolerance of local circumstance and recognition of the diversity of morals. There are also the obligations which travellers or residents in a foreign country take upon themselves. The intolerance of strict Islam for the consumption of alcohol, among other things, is well known. To go and live in Saudi Arabia as a matter of choice is also to accept, temporarily, the jurisdiction of Saudi police and Saudi

The desert kingdom has been pretty much of a known quantity since at least Richard Burton's time, and anyone going there to live, including British nurses, has done so in the knowledge that Saudi ways are emphatically not our ways. Living. abroad is to enter into an implicit contract with the host country: take its pay, observe its rules. When things go awry, the contract does not cease to be valid.

British justice is not impeccable nor which may be more to the point in this case - is the conduct of investigating police officers. That said, the performance of Saudi institutions leaves some big questions pending, and they have nothing to

do with sharia law or the principles of Islam. The Saudi government, evidently anxious to palliate opinion in Britain, despite the harsh language of its ambassador in London, has fallen between two stools, neither treating the case as it would have done if, say, Filipino maids had been involved, nor ensuring that the suspects were treated in Western fashion. The involvement of the victim's prother has further muddied the water.

None of that is to challenge either the legal competence of the Saudis to try the case according to precedent, nor their capacity to find and punish Nurse Gilford's killers. Saudi Arabia may be a nepotistic oligarchy where the proceeds of oil extraction have fed an orgy of materialism (and a series of deeply ambiguous interventions in Middle Eastern politics) but that does not permit the inference that no justice is possible in the kingdom.

The Saudis, moreover, will justly note the sudden change of tack on the part of

British newspapers who not long ago were all too keen on the application of bamboo canes to bare backs - as long as the wielders were stout British turnkeys and the backs belonged to youthful malefactors. There is in short a whiff of racism in the air. The fact that elements in latter-day Islam are deeply misogynist is of no direct relevance, except that the accused nurses have alleged they were sexually abused by investigating police officers, a charge that would have been impossible to lodge if women in Saudi Arabia were given even elementary public recognition and civic

Robin Cook needs to keep his nerve and stick to proper intercession with what is after all one of Britain's closest diplomatic partners in the region. His task would, it must be said, be easier had he not recently been buckling on the breastplate of international relations righteousness and proclaiming an ethical foreign policy in absolutist terms. To

strive to conduct relations with foreign countries on the basis of a set of values is one thing; to announce in grandiloquent terms that henceforth Labour's foreign relations would be squeaky clean is another, and Mr Cook risks being held to account to impossible standards.

harsh I

Perhaps this case will give him a chance to get a better grip on what he intends. The sale of arms to and diplomatic support for Saudi Arabia constitute a large British interest: that contention has not been challenged. As a general rule the internal affairs of the Arabian peninsula are not our concern, and we expect British nationals working there (for their personal benefit) to play by local rules. What that leaves as government's role in the case of Nurses McLauchlan and Parry is not great. To plead for elemency, to deplore treatment that British opinion regards as barbarous - these are the least and the sum of appropriate official intervention.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor und include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Millennium bomb

Sir: Nicholas Lumsden (Letters, 23 September) is suffering from a common reaction to the year 2000 problem: denial. His suggestion that users should simply wind forward their computer clocks to 2001 is impractical, misses the scale of the problem but, most important, simply will not work. The difficulty is not in recognising the year 2000 per se but with computers understanding that the years "00", "01", etc, come

Even if his idea were feasible, it makes the basic assumption that this is a problem which affects only personal computers, and has a single solution. Unfortunately, as IT directors across the world are discovering, this is not the case. HELENA STURRIDGE Editor, Computer Weekly

Sir: This week you have printed two letters displaying a degree of ignorance about the year 2000 computer problem.

ritst, whiist there is an option to all users to sue the supplier this will not correct the problem, nor will it provide enough compensation quickly enough to fund the changes that will be required. If a company wishes to be in business after 31 December 1999 it needs to check its computer systems 10w, not get involved in a court ase that will finish in the next iccade.

Secondly, the problem is nainly connected with old code in mainframe machines. \D2000 compliance is a real ssue that will effect real cople's lives and jobs. There re no clever answers or quick plutions. This is a serious busiess, and your readers need to ake up to the fact. RAHAM EVANS

reud's reputation

r. Andreas Whittam Smith, in s account of Freud's seduction cory, states that "Freud had come convinced by stories reed to him by patients of the portance of sexual experices undergone during childod" (23 September). This is : account Freud gave many urs later, but is false. As his ginal papers show, it was he o insisted that the patients d experienced sexual lestation in infancy; the

ients. Freud reported,

their unbelief".

Mr Whittam Smith alludes to the many references to Freud in recent publications as evidence of our debt to him, but Richard Webster is nearer the mark when he writes that Freud is treated as "a kind of dead letter box into which any profound insight into human nature whose origins are obscure ... is automatically sorted".

As Mr Whittam Smith indicates, there have been several scholarly critiques of Freud in recent years. The fact that he describes these as "vicious" suggests that he has not read them, but is relying on second hand reports. **ALLEN ESTERSON**

Voting reform

London W6

Sir. In his perceptive piece (Comment, 23 September) Donald MacIntyre outlines two choices for the Electoral Commission which Labour and the

"assure me ... emphatically of Liberal Democrats have pledged will draw up a "single proportional system" of election to put before voters in a referendum, as an alternative to the status quo.

> vocates of the Alternative Vote (such as Peter Mandelson and Peter Hain) is to show how this system can be reconciled with Labour's manifesto pledge to offer a proportional system. In our recent report, "Making Votes Count" (published this week by Scarman Trust Enterprises) we show that this system would be far less proportional than first-past-the-post elections - for instance, cutting Tory MPs at the 1997 election from 165 to just 110, half the number they would be entitled to

under a proportional system. We also showed that the Lib-. eral Democrats' favourite system (the single transferable vote) would have worked in an unproportional way in 1997, so that Paddy Ashdown also confronts a problem in reconciling

his preference with the promises already made to voters.

By contrast the approach which Donald Macintyre sees as a "possible cloudy basis for compromise" is a variant of a The difficulty for Labour adthird system called the Additional Member System, which does operate in a reliably proportional way, so long as it is designed right. It involves electing some MPs locally, and some regionally through party top-up

With a 50:50 split between the two types of MPs, or slightly more local MPs, as in the Scottish Parliament, this method

works very proportionately. But the more local MPs there are (and hence the fewer top-up MPs to correct distortions) the more disproportional this system would

These results, established by the most rigorous political science methods, are not just "voting systems nerdery" (as Donald Macintyre terms it). They go to the heart of the loudly enough to wake our

problems which both Labour and Liberal Democrats confront in the future. You cannot inaugurate a new age of better politics by betraying firm manifesto promises on the choice that citizens will get in the referendum on voting reform. PATRICK DUNLEAVY

(LSE), HELEN MARGETTS (Birkbeck College), STUART WEIR (University of Essex) Department of Government

London WC2

Snoring

Sir: Monique Roffey's article ("I'd love to go to bed with you, but don't expect to sleep", 23 September), starts with: "Snoring is one of the most anti-social human habits."

Let's face it, we all snore in varying degrees. It's the way nature made us, so why make a big thing about it?

Even our recently departed and much loved cat snored visitors. Accept it; it's part of life and no big deal.

So, Monique, if you love him and he loves you, do what you do together in the bedroom, and sleep, if required, in separate ones: we do, as we find many of our friends do as well. STUART AND MARGARET blamed. HARRISON Lichfield, Staffs

Malaya and Islam

Sir: Matthew Chance's criticisms of the Islamic revival in Malaysia show an inability to realise that non-European peoples might intelligently prefer their own values to those of Europe ("Islam's grip tightens", 22 September).

As Malaysia opens up to the world, its young people are inevitably becoming more aware of the faults as well as the virtues of the global civilisation which the West has created. For instance, while Muslims in most countries affirm the right of religious minorities to consume alcohol, they cannot accept that alcohol is truly in a different category to other narcotics. Many look with puzzlement on the reactions to the death of the Princess of Wales. for which everything except the true culprit - alcohol - was

Muslims have similar difficulties understanding the Western urge publicly to display the human body, either in person

or through images. It is not the body or private sexuality that we object to, but rather the progressive sexualisation of public spaces, which inevitably provides more scope for marital infidelity and hence the trauma of divorce.

Public anatomical displays may enrich the fashion and cosmetics industries, but they are oppressively marginalising to the old, and to all who may be spiritually admirable, but physically fail to measure up to the current images of perfection. Modesty in dress is hence not oppressive, but liberating.

No doubt any onslaught by a Malaysian prime minister on a demigod of the financial world will call forth a dutiful flurry of anti-Malay sentiment. But Malaysia remains a success story, with no Ulster-style religious violence between its many religious groups. As it grapples with a flawed

modernity, it will continue to thrive because of, rather than despite, its confident Muslim ABDAL HAKIM MURAD

Cambridge

Conservation

Sir. The Independent recently published an article ("World conservation groups accused of putting people last in rush to preserve endangered plant and animal species", 15 September), which reported an accusation by the group Survival International regarding the bioprospecting project which Conservation International helped establish among the Saramaka Maroon people of Suriname's rain fores

As in all of CI's projects, the foundation of our work begins with the local people. In Suriname, CI helped establish the bioprospecting project as a means for the country to benefit economically from its biologically rich rain forest without cutting it down.

The Maroon people of Suriname are Conservation International's partners in an ongoing effort to prevent the wholesale destruction of Suriname's rain forests. LISA BOWEN

Media Relations Director Conservation International

Red Cross

Sir: Before the Red Cross spend their money on designing a new logo, why don't they rotate their current logo through 45 degrees to create a non-religious symbol?

They could call it The Red ANDY BROWN St Alban's, Herts

Irish stereotypes

the growing number of protests against the BBC's portrayal of the Irish in a stereotypical manner. I refer, of course, to the characters in Ballykissangel. RUTH MCCRACKEN. Milton Keynes, Bucks

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State Service

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A woman one simply has to take one's hat off to — and then eat it



UNGTON

Today I am pleased to welcome That is, when we think somea guest writer, Mrs Ethel Rom- one is a bit cracked, we say he mel of the Millinery Museum is a "madcap". When we want in Yorkshire. This museum is someone to buck their ideas up, one of the very few in the world devoted entirely to headgear, and Mrs Rommel (no relation) has made a lifelong study of the influence of bats and caps on the English language. Today she answers all

your queries. Where does the expression "madcap" come from, as in "madcup exploits"?

Mrs Rommel writes: There has always been a close correlation between the brain and the thing which covers the brain, ie the hat or cap, so in popular parlance it is quite common to transfer characwe tell him to "get his thinking cap" on. We don't really think that the cap can think. We are just lending the cap qualities as-

sociated with ... Yes, yes, yes - I get the idea. But we don't call female intellectuals anything like that, do we? We call them "blue stockings". Why do we call them "blue stockings" and not "blue hats" or

Mrs Rommel writes: Ah, now that is slightly outside my subject. That's a stocking question. If you really want to know, I can give you the address of Mrs Jane Mauleverer, my counteristics of one to the other. terpart at the Sock and of the Bed Collection, or the

Stocking Collection ...

Er. no, thank ... Why do we say, "If the cap fits, wear it"? Mrs Rommel writes: Because it is silly to wear a hat that is too tight or too loose.

No, I mean, why have we enshrined it in a proverb? Why not, if the shoe fits, wear it, or, if the shirt fits, wear it ? Mrs Rommel writes: Many

proverbs deal with different activities, and it tends to even out. After all, we also say "You've made your bed and you must lie on it," or "You can't have your cake and eat it," and we at Millinery House don't grumble that the bed people and cake people have got there first. If you would like to know more, I can give you the address

Cake Heritage Centre ...

No, thank you very much. Tell me though, why do we say that somebody has been knocked into a cocked hat? Mrs Rommel writes: We

Don't we? Mrs Rommel writes: No. Not any more. Research shows that this expression has more or less died out.

Oh. Well, what about "throw ing your hat in the ring"? Mrs Rommel writes: Yes. that's still current. As you know, it means to enter a competition. Especially one that involves throwing hats into a ring. Has there ever been such a

But you must remember that bowler?

the hat is the most instantly removable item of clothing that we possess, and therefore the quickest to symbolise things. That's why we say that a footballer has been "capped for England". That's why we "pas the hat round" when we are collecting. You wouldn't pass the coat round. Or say that someone has been trousered for

England. Would you? No, but you do talk about someone flying by the seat of his pants, don't vou?

Mrs Rommel writes: How very true. If you want further information, why not write to the Trouser Information Centre, at Bipedal House, London W1?

Yes, I might. And there again, Mrs Rommel writes: No. I might not. Why is it called a what called a bowler? À bowler hat. Mrs Rommel writes: Ah. It

a London hatter. Why is it called a derby in America?

Mrs Rommel writes: Because the Americans are not democratic like us and prefer to

name things after aristocrats. In this case, Lord Derby? Mrs Rommel writes: Very 200d. Did you know, by the way, that the French word for bowler is "Chapeau melon" or "Mel-

on hat"? Named after a hatter called Jean Melon, no doubt? Or perhaps endowed by the Mellon

Mrs Rommel writes: No.

Foundation?

Mrs Rommel writes: Why is The French simply thought it resembled a melon. You can always learn more by writing to the Fresh Fruit Foundation ...

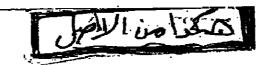
Ah!! I didn't see that one is so named after John Bowler. coming! Very good! You pulled the wool over my eyes there! Incidentally, is that a hat expression?

Mrs Rommel writes: No. It is a sheep expression. Why not write to ...?

No, thanks. Well, I've enjoyed this very much, but I haven t learnt a thing. If you haven't been talking through your hat, I'll ... Mrs Rommel writes: Eat

your hat? Exactly

If you want to know more about headgear and language, write to anyone you like but not



Ashdown ran away from telling the harsh truth



DONALD **MACINTYRE** WITH THE LIB DEMS

The Liberal Democrats love their leader. There is nothing synthetic about the rapture with which Paddy Ashdown's party received his speech yesterday. The hall was packed. The minute-by-minute applause spontaneous. The party basking in the leader's own flattery of it. Even as he magnanimously distributed compliments to those who ran the election campaign, the faithful sat secure in the unshakeable belief that he is overwhelmingly the party's greatest electoral asset. A few of his younger lieutenants have this week have jockeyed, with absurd optimism, for the benefit of the gallery. But it's. in the empty hope of filling a vacancy which for now doesn't remotely exist.

Paddy is entitled to this adulation. But it also sets a yardstick by which to judge what he says to his party. Supremely popular among his own tribe as he is, Ashdown can afford to take liberties which might not be available to another leader. A William Hague, his position precarious almost before his leadership is completely under way, apparently dares not speak truths about the reasons for his party's defeat. Ashdown, riding on an electoral success, unchallenged for nine years at the head of an expanding party, can get away with a great deal more.

So this is one yardstick by which to assess the well rehearsed message that Ashdown was telling home truths to his party yesterday. The other is the disjunction exposed in Easthourne this week between where Ashdown wants to take the Liberal Democrats and where they want to be. Don Foster, the education spokesman, does not make the ludicrous claim that the Blair betrayed the Labour government by not bringing primary school class sizes down to 30, four mouths after taking office, because he believes it. He does it because he thinks it is what the party wants to hear. Charles Kennedy is an intelligent enough politician the Lih Dems should set about the task of replacing the Conservatives as the main opposition to Labour. It's a claim which defies history, wishing away the enduring right in British politics. It founders on the truth that of for every 10 seats where the Liberal Democrats are second, seven are Tory and three are Labour. Kennedy doesn't think those seats are remotely winnable by making the Government the Liberal Democrats' principal opponents. Nor does he think for a second, as he appeared to imply this week. that evalition with Labour is not the utterly inevitable consequence of electoral reform. He just thinks they are arguments that will appeal to the large proportion of activists who are much more interested in winning seats from Labour on local councils than in increasing their power at Westminster. Assuming therefore that the Kennedys and Fosters are judging their party correctly, Ashdown, seeking to condition his party towards what it needs to do it if it to realise the holy grail of electoral reform has both a big problem and the power to do a lot about

It's hard to give him more than two cheers. He spoke, albeit a little opaquely, of the "risks" he was prepared to take to maximise the party's influence. He warned, rightly, that the party will have to compromise some of its most cherished constitutional goals if it is to make progress in the famous ioint Cabinet committee. He was careful, despite some unrepentant and generalised New Labour-bashing, to affirm his belief that Blair is "serious about changing the culture of our politics." In a gentle but unmistakeable rebuff to Kennedy, he derided the notion that the Liberal Democrats should be content to be a "conventional opposition". He warned against "an excessive concern for our purity." He eschewed the "politics of the tribe".

So far so good. It was, in the end, an appeal for the Liberal Democrats to grow up. But was it enough? Did the audience understand it in their hearts as well as their heads? . Within two hours of Ashdown's speech the conference did two apparently trivial things which rather graphically suggest otherwise. First, in a move inspired by little more than the self-interest of the ubiountous Liberal Democrat councillors, the conference reaffirmed its opposition to the idea of a directly elected London mayor. With one vote, scarcely noted in the warm afterglow of Ashdown rhetoric, the party, described m that rhetoric as the true reformers, leading on a laggardly Labour Party, set itself against one of the most exciting constitutional innovations of the new government. And even if the party's policy were right, is it sensible? Are the Liberal Democrats really going to campaign for a No vote in the referendum on an elected mayor - and in the process look even more antideluvian than the Conservative Party? Blair overcame similarly entrenched municipal opposition to make the mayor policy. Ashdown, in his speech yesterday, didn't even try. Immediately afterwards the party reaffirmed its commitment to the single transferable vote. There is not the merest-ghost of a chance that STV will become the agreed system of PR. At the moment the party will be lucky if it achieves the "alternative vote" before the next election - very lucky considering that on the 1997 vote shares it would have doubled their seats in Westminster.

It's easy to say that doesn't matter, that in the big grown-up village of Westminster everybody who knows anything knows that Ashdown appreciates that all these policies, from an impressively huge list of spending commitments to an absolutely unattainable form of PR don't mean anything. But Blair, more than he let on to his conference yesterday, has shown there is another way. That it's not just the leader who matters; the party has to change too. It's unwise for Labour politicians to patronise the Liberal Democrats, the best of whom would grace a Blair Cabinet, as the Prime Minister knows. But it just as unwise for the Liberal Democrats to patronise Labour. When Ashdown rightly congratulates his party for their esses, and then harangues Labour for its tax and spending policies, he would do well to remind it that quite a lot of those successes were because Labour supporters switched to Liberal Democrat candidates to help to return a Labour government committed to precisely those policies. Ashdown's speech was a step in the right direction. But telling unpalatable truths, as Blair has shown, is part of the new politics. Ashdown will have to do more than he did



Yes, the old order is dead - and it's women you should be thanking



POLLY TOYNBEE ON FRANCIS **FUKUYAMA**

We are living now in a frightening era called "The End of Order" - a society dislocated by the breakdown of the family, our social fabric trailing in the gutter. Crime and mayhem, anti-social children, plummeting education standards, we are slip-sliding into the abyss. Who is to blame? Women.

Francis Fukuyama, the social guru who brought us The End of History, this week publishes of Order. He warns that this is the result of what he calls The Great Disruption - a time of social upheaval as great as the Industrial Revolution. It started in 1965, 30 years of rising divorce, illegitimacy, crime. working women and social chaos. Who started it? Women. First, I think he is right. We

are living through a social revolution as profoundly earthshaking as the advent of communism in Russia, or indeed the Industrial Revolution. Those were external forces, organised by savage governments or ruthless millowners and landowners, pushing reluctant people to live and work in new, hostile ways. They never changed hearts and minds, they just bullied and starved people into change.

came not from any grand plan or economic imperative, but by ordinary people individually marching with their feet, without orders from anyone. For the first time ever, in the 1960s, people were at last rich enough and free enough to throw off their social shackles. And Fukuyama is right, it was mainly women who made the change. It is a revolution right in the heart of the family, behind the closed front doors where politics never penetrate. It is a revolution that has changed for ever the balance of power. money and freedom between women and men.

As we are still in the middle of it, we cannot see clearly where it will lead or how it will end. This is a transitional time. Those who detest it are quick to point to its worst effects, the social fall-out of any great change. Those of us who celebrate the new freedom protest that society has been too slow to accommodate itself to the change and find ways to pick up those who have fallen into the and the new. Women's earning power is still too low for most to become breadwinners for their families, so welfare bills have soared, too many women and children are poor, there is no childcare, men have re-

Fukuyama is apocalyptic. He does not consider any social benefits in his catalogue of woe. All is disorder. He dates his End of Order from the arrival of the Pill, and increases in welfare. By the 1980s, half of new marriages could be expected to end in divorce. At the same time women were entering the labour market in droves, and their fertility fell. "Women hest able to care for and raise children were having fewer. while those less able to do so were having more." Crime and

fused to adapt - and so on.

But this Great Disruption murder rates shot up. Children reared without fathers were the problem: "Just as male promiscuity needs to be controlled by the institution of marriage, male aggressiveness needs to be controlled by paternal authority." Women at work or on welfare could fend for themselves, so men were absolved of all fathering responsibility.

His Industrial Revolution analogy is useful. He writes: "The Industrial Revolution had, by the early 19th century, produced a host of social pathologies including high levels of murder and robbery. family breakdown, abandonment of children, alcoholism and the like. Deviance rates rose steadily through the middle of the 19th century, and thereafter began a long, slow decline." Yes, revolutions cause painful dislocation. But what does that make him? A social Luddite who wants to return to the old world.

craves? Strict social control: "As late as the 1950s in the United brides were pregnant at the altar and their bridegrooms coerced into marriage (usually through the efforts of the girl's male relatives)." Oh happy days! Shamed women were shackled for life to men who didn't want to marry them and erative social norm". Everything that now fails to conform to that norm he labels "deviant".

Japan is his shining example of a highly developed society that has managed to avoid the Western "deviant" fate. How did they do it? Most important, he says, is that Japanese women do not work, or not after marriage. Japanese labour law permits wage discrimination against women, and divorce law favours fathers. Without welfare, the economic

prospects for a single mother in Japan are grim. He notes that the Pill was only legalised in Japan in 1996 and abortion carries a strong social stigma. "The reason why Asian societies, beginning with Japan, have been able to avoid the kinds of social problems facing North America and Europe is because they have more strongly resisted female equality."

I am sure he is right.

Women's striving for equality is what has caused this revolution. He writes of women in society as if they were "other" - perhaps even the enemy. Keep them out of the labour market, give them no welfare or contraceptives and they will go back to the kitchen and cook and mother like the good geishas nature meant them to be. (There is much socio-biological determinism in this too.) He writes as if society were constructed for the convenience of men, which of course it was. But it is a while since I have read What is the old order he such an unself-consciously male view of the world. It is rather refreshing to read an analysis self-interested.

What is deviance, and what was his social order? It was a time when everything difficult and unhappy was kept safely behind the front door. As long as none of it spilled messily out into the streets, politicians and this is what he calls the "co-op- social theorists didn't need to worry. Private unhappiness is not a political or economic is-

sue. When feminists first said the personal was political, they meant that what happened in real life where it is lived by most people most of the time, in their. homes, in their families, is indeed the proper concern of polities. Forcing people through poverty and public shame to stay in miserable and often violent marriages was politically and economically convenient. But what is politics for, if not to try to bring the greatest happiness to the greatest number? And that includes women, wanting to escape dependence and exclusion from mainstream

What's more, The Great Disruption has given men the chance to be happier and freer too. Some, like Fukuyama, may resent losing their hegemony; many others wouldn't return to the shotgun wedding era. Men have been slow to adapt, and that's why the revolution is only half-made. But things can only get better. As for the fallout, Fukuyama is one of a torrent of commentators to plunge down into the entrails of the untional milieu a mirror for the whole of society. For most of us, the last 30 years have been a transformation, a new revelation of human potential and fulfilment. I would guess even poor women are better off too. if he bothered to ask them. 'The End of Order' by Francis Fukuyama is published by the Social Market Foundation.

Prince Andrew's real handicap - and it's got nothing to do with golf



JOHN **WALSH** Sporting life-wise, the only place to be this weekend is Valderrama, the fashionable golf course near Gibraltar where the swarthy Europeans led by Seve Ballesteros are preparing to trash the wheyfaced Yanks in the Ryder Cup. The Valderrama course, created for maximum impossibility by the Bolivian tin billionaire Jaime Ortiz-Patino, has become a terrific draw for powerful, well-heeled international niblick fans. Should you and I, for instance, find ourselves momentarily distracted from the driving technique of Mr Tiger Woods and glance up at the VIP box, we shall be able to spot Prince Andrew (handicap 7, two better than James Bond) sitting beside ex-Prez George Bush (handicap 20 and rising) and the King of Spain (kings don't have handicaps). It's quite a line-up (and

that's before you've started on the golfers). Looking for further enlightenment about the Duke's prowess on fairway and green, one turns to Golf International, a glamorous new arrival in the suddenly-crowded field of sporting magazines. And there one learns an intriguing morsel about one of the Duke's obsessions.

It's a book. According to Peter Alliss, the veteran broadcaster, who hung out with the Oueen's second son while filming A Golfer's Travels in Royal Domoch, Andrew has a thing about a certain novel and he reads it all the time. About four times a year, every year, in fact. This smacks of morbid selfidentification. What can this absorbing volume be?

It's by an American woman called Margaret Craven and it's called I Heard The Owl Call My Name (Picador, £5.99, all good bookshops) and it tells the story of a young Anglican vicar called Mark Brian, who is sent by his bishop into the wilds of British Columbia, to hang out with the Indian tribesmen ("There was pride in his eyes without arrogance. Behind the pride was a sadness so deep it seemed to stretch back into ancient mysteries Mark could not even imagine") in a village named, with awful portentousness, Kingcome. The young vicar is dying, and the bishop knows he is dying, and has sent him to live among the eagles and totems to learn the secrets of the tribe ("Each February we come here to clam") and to discover that The Way is Long and The Road is Hard

and other bromides so dear to milking machine. Yeesh. The the frontiersman's beart ("There is no word for 'Thank you' in Kwakwala ..."). The title refers to the recog-

nition of death in Indian culture, as the hapless vicar discovers one night when, having achieved wisdom, he hears an owl getting its hooting equipment round the words "Mark Brian", presumably in the style of Bruce Forsythe inviting a contestant to come on down. It's an earnest and desperately solemn piece of work, inhabiting that territory of elemental baloney somewhere between The Horse Whisperer and The Bridges of Madison County, and shows, I fear, that the Duke of York is gradually turning into his big brother. Healthy red-blooded pursuits. like the action at Valderrama, are battling with morbid introspection for his soul and I hope the former wins. (I Heard the Birdie Four Call My Name? I Heard the Eagle at the Spacenth Call My Name?)

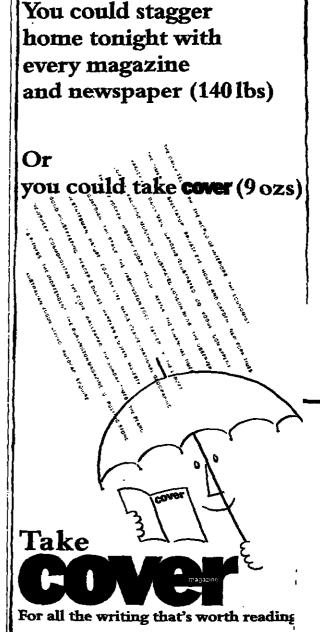
Revolting news story of the week was that of the poor woman in Melbourne, Australia, whose face was torn off after she caught her hair in a time. The real meaning of

plastic surgeons (obviously the only medically-inclined Australians who haven't decamped to England to become dentists) amazingly managed to glue it all back on again, after packing it in ice, like caviar, and she may turn out to be just-recognisable. now they've sewn up a few thousand tiny blood vessels and nerves and capillaries.

The phenomenon of having the outer skin on the front of your head flayed is known by the quaint modern locution, "de-gloved". I suppose it's just too gross to say you've been "defaced", as if you were a library book. And once you start, there's no end to the number of metaphorical uses to which we've put the outer covering of ourselves, the skin-aspersona. If what happened to the Melbourne woman were, unimaginably, done deliberately by herself, would you call her self-effacing? Suddenly you realise how much must be at stake for Oriental diplomats to worry about "losing face" and 'saving face". The Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby", "wearing a face that she keeps in a jar by the door" (packed in ice?) was clearly 30 years ahead of her

"face-off" is the moment of battle between two hockey players with a puck between them on the centre line, but the expression has a popular figurative side, as in a head-to-head battle. Becoming "off your face" and having people "in your face" (like, say, surgeons) are recent bad habits. And, of course, given the details of the milking machine accident, the word "face-lift" will never

sound quite so homely again. It's in the area of face transplants, of course, that the world heyond Melbourne is so intrigued. Will we end up in the plastic surgeon's waiting-room. consulting pages of mini-photographs, as with a Dulux swatch, mix 'n' matching an earlobe here, a corner of eve there, an endearing dimple and a masterful curl of the upper lip? Or will we be offered a full-on transformation into one of a range of public faces? Shall we say, "I'm going on holiday to a country where they only watch Channel 4. Gimme a Matt Le Blanc ... " or "I've been invited to dinner with nine research chemists and I won't know what they're talking about. Give me a Jennifer Ehle, with extra I'm-having-a-



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Malcolm Hughes

Malcolm Hughes, artist and teacher: born Manch 22 July 1920; married 1947 Joan Barkworth (one son, one daughter, marriage dissolved), 1997 Jean Spencer died London 19 September

Revisiting the Cistercian Abbey of Fontfroide in Languedoc in the late summer of this year, I was reminded all the time of the enthusiasm with which Malcolm Hughes had spoken of his own recent visit. The combination of pure structural logic with a settled screnity, and above all the fact that this was a building dedicated to the life and practice of a community, must have spoken powerfully to him.

Malcolm Hughes was that rare thing among British artists: a creative thinker who openly rejected individualism and sought to foster collective strategies for the production and display of works of art. His anti-Romantic stance, and his desire to found his practice on clear, systematic procedures, led him at early stage to take up the tradition of geometrical abstraction: more precisely, he followed the example of the small group of British abstract artists which had coalesced in the 1950s, and chose to make "constructions".

For over 30 years, he continued to explore this path. employing his meticulous crafts-

manship to make reliefs and paintings which invariably combined an underlying logic with an intense physical presence. Yet he never forgot that constructivism was, historically and in principle, an international movement. No British artist did more, over this period, to foster the international connections implicit in the common heritage of European Modernism.

with war service as a radio operator in the Royal Navy. His training as an artist began in Manchester, at the Regional College of Art, and continued at the Royal College of Art, where he was one of the students selected to assist in the painting of large-scale murals in the Law Courts, and inclined in-his own work to Socialist Realism. By the mid-1960s, he had begun to develop his own constructive idiom, and was showing at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, as well as contributing to the Salon des Realités Nouvelles in Paris.

In this period, he also laid the foundation of his career as a teacher: he taught on a parttime basis at the School of Architecture, in the Polytechnic of Central London, and at Bath Academy of Art, as well as at the Chelsea School of Art, where the constructive artists John Ernest and Anthony Hill

were among his colleagues. His own style, as an artist troduce the practical possibil-

and group organiser, came clearly into view when he cofounded the Systems Group in 1969 with Jeffrey Steele, and began the extensive process of practical work and discussion which culminated in the Arts Council "Systems" exhibition of Hughes's adult life began

1972-73. Hughes was auxious that this show should not be a mere re-enactment of earlier displays of geometric abstract art: he and his exhibiting coleagues, who were drawn from diverse backgrounds and a wide age-group, collectively com-mitted themselves to extending their range by using new materials and working on a large, in some cases environmental scale. Hughes's own contribution was a tranquil room, bordered on four sides by neccable white reliefs. His commitment as a

teacher also intensified at this

stage. Arriving at the Slade School of Art on a part-time basis in 1970, he took over the running of the Graduate School from William Townsend in 1973, and designed the new graduate programme, involving experimental studies, for the move into the Pearson Building in 1975. The intellectual vitality and sense of adventure generated by this new development left their mark on a whole generation of Slade postgraduate students. Heady ideas were circulating in the early 1970s. But he took care to inity of fine art computing. Students like Chris Briscoe went on to make a career in this domain; others of a very different bent, like the painter Christopher Le Brun, have testified to the strong impact of his teaching and example. Hughes had been appointed

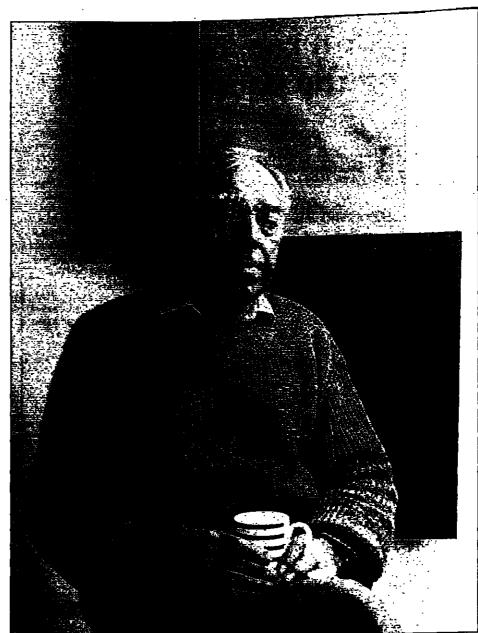
was to leave his post at the Slade only in 1983. His retirement enabled him to redouble his commitment to his own creative work. He himself (aided by the considerable technical expertise of his sou, Chris) produced computer graphics of great delicacy and refinement. He also created a memorable one-man exhibition for the old premises of the Annely Juda Gallery in 1989, and a further one (shared with Alan Reynolds) for the new gallery in 1996. The combination of painting and relief, and the effect of colour transparency achieved through laying one tone over another, made this last show as fresh and distinctive as anything that he

had done previously. Throughout this period, wever, Hughes reaffirmed the collective basis of constructive art work. Between 1984 and 1989, he formed part of a group of younger artists who took their title from their small gallery in the East End, Exhibiting Space. With the artist Jean Spencer, his companion for over 25 years, he travelled extensively throughout

Europe, following the networks set up by their joint participation in the international Arbeitskreis group, and showing work in Germany, France, Switzerland and Eastern Europe. An evening with Malcolm and Jean was not only a gastronomic treat, but an oppor-Reader in Fine Art in 1976, and tunity to come up to date with this unique and flourishing movement of constructive artists, which transcended

> national frontiers. Malcolm Hughes must inevitably have come up against the entrenched scepticism about constructive and systematic art which is still to be found among British critics and curators. He was never offered the chance of a major retrospective exhibition. Over the last two years, however, a sequence of events heartened him: the fine show "Testing the System", organised at Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, in autumn 1996; the illuminating retrospective of the great Swiss constructive artist Richard Paul Lohse, shown first at the Annely Juda Gallery and later at Kettle's Yard in 1997; and finally the splendid symposium organised by the composer Michael Parsons, Jean Spencer and Gary Woodley at Kettle's Yard on "Patterns of Connection in art, music and science".

To patterns and connections such as these his creative and personal life had been dictated. — Stephen Bann



Hughes: an anti-Romantic who embraced constructivism

Professor Yuji Aida

Yuji Aida, writer, scholar and journalist: born Kyoto, Japan 1916; Professor of **Humanities, Kyoto University** 1939-78 (Emeritus); married; died Sakyo-ku, Japan 17 September 1997.

In a land where few people aspire to stand out from the masses, Yuji Aida was an exdinary Japanese writer and scholar. In a land where "the nail that sticks up" is always smartly hammered down, this professor of the humanities at Kyoto University went his own idiosyncratic way, outraging his compatriots by his outspokenness, and by a sharp and often bitter critical

His chief targets were bureaucracy, pretentiousness, and anything that in his opinion displayed a lowering of cultural standards and human values. His favourite expression of contempt was vasumono (cheap stuff). The shallow concepts of "democracy", "humanity" and internationalism" touted by eager Japanese left-wingers in the post-war period came in for scathing attacks that aroused rewilderment, then anger.

"Cheap stuff!" he shouted above the babble of academic, political and social twaddle. and turned his corrosive tongue gainst educational standardiation, with its consequent lack f imagination, initiative and riginal creative drive in za yang

our "yoof". Aida was a cynic in the true

sense of the word (that the Japanese confuse with "egotist"). He was a modern Diogenes whose tub was his devastating eloquence, forthright literary style and absolute contempt for the opinions of others. People hated him. But such extreme attitudes have fakes and cheats at bay, and ensure that his few friends, rigorously selected, were steadfast. They were rare, in every sense of that word, but they stayed with him to the very end, when, at his own desire, as expressed in his will, he lay among flowers in the comfort of his own study for a strictly private funeral ceremony attended by his wife Hiroko and son Masahiko and a handful of old friends; and also by thousands of books, including the 18volume collected edition of

his own works. He had been a passionate devotee of coffee ". . . which makes the politician wise, / And see through all things with his half-shut eyes". The mourners therefore showered his corpse with coffee beans before the closing of the coffin - a gesture both ceremonious and humorous, in keeping with the quirky

character of the departed. Yuji Aida possessed another characteristic unusual in a Japanese. He was a fount of eloquence, both in speech and

the Japanese equivalent of on radio and television discussion programmes, where he would often reduce the other participants to tongue-tied fury or helpless laughter. He was a well-known journalist, and was on the editorial board of the Sankei Shimbun, to which rather conservative organ he contributed regular articles of dazzling literary and philosophical ingenuity. His expres-

> known as "Aida-bushi". Aida was born and bred in

the ancient capital of Kyoto, where he attended the prestigious university and graduated from the Department of Literature. He taught for a while as assistant professor at Kobe University, then in 1939 returned to Kyoto University as Professor of Humanities at the Intercultural Studies Centre.

> book on Michelangelo. Another of his fields was the His-



'On public works': author's sketch from Aida's wartime writing. So he was in demand memoir Prisoner of the British (Cresset Press, 1966)

tory of the Human Intellect. Among his later works in these disciplines we find studies in the popular post-war "Nihonjin ron" (inquiries into the nature of the Japanese) like Nihoniin no ishiki kozo ("The Structure of the Japanese Consciousness") and Yoroppa, Humanisumu no genkai ("Europe: the limits of humanism").

One of his specialities was the history of Renaissance art.

made him the man the Japanese loved to hate, but his work was widely read, influential: he became a leading critic of Japan's contemporary failings. known as nikumarekko - suffering from the "bad boy" syndrome. He just said what he thought, without much considering ordinary people's feelings something unique in Japanese society. He attributed his intellectual ferocity to his ancestry, claiming that his defiant self-assurance stemmed from his origins in the Aizu-han samurai clan. He was proud of his fighting spirit and of the ancient warrior blood flowing in his veins.

The cynicism and irony dis-

In 1940 he was sent to teach in Burma. One of his most hard-hitting books was written about his imprisonment after the war in a Burmese POW camp: Ahlone shu yojo (1962), translated as Prisoner of the British (1966) by Louis Allen, assisted by Hide Ishiguro.

Allen was a distinguished literary scholar who was one of the popular voices on Round Britain Quiz. He became Reader in French at Durham Uni- ans. What impressed Aida most

versity after the Second World War, where I met him shortly before his death. During the war, he was posted to the School of Oriental Studies at London University for a crash course in Japanese, then was forwarded to the Burma front. serving with the 17th Indian

Division at Penwegon. Aida was confined for two years in the prison camp at well have encountered him in liaison work with surviving Jananese army units. But I am sure that Allen could never have been one of the several British army officers whom Aida accuses of "inhuman" conduct, for long after he returned to Britain Allen treasured friendships with many Japanese former POWs.

Aida's book was also very uncomplimentary to the Japanese, especially to those in charge of the conduct of the war, and it created a scandal. He says the English translation did not appeal to the British. presumably because of the understandable hostility it aroused among some exprisoners of the Japanese. He attacks "European rationalism" and compares it unfavourably with Japanese feelings of mellow indulgence towards one

another in their daily lives. The book buzzes with several of the other bees he had in his bonnet, and there are some absurd caricatures of British men and women, and of Indi-

was the total lack of resentment. shown by the Burmese to their foreign invaders, both Japanese and British. A recent book by Gunner Patrick G. McEvoy, Ballads of a Black Cat: Burma 43-45 (1977), bears this out. It also displays a civilised respect for the enemy that is in marked contrast to Aida's fulminations: "The Japanese soldiers I had personal contact with after the end of hostilities were, regardless of rank, both courteous and respectful. As a soldier myself I could only admire

their courage and endurance." One of the officers McEvoy praises was Lt-Gen Masaki Honda and one whom he paints a black picture of was the infamous Lt-Gen Renya Mutaguchi. In his book Defeat into Victory (1956), Field Marshal Sir William Slim writes: "Whatever one may think of the military wisdom of thus pursuing a hopeless object, there can be no question of the supreme courage and hardihood of the Japanese soldiers who made the attempts. I know of no army that could have equalled them."

As might be expected, Yuji Aida's frankness provoked a number of British letter-writers. In a sequel to Prisoner of the British, entitled Ahlone shuyojo saiho ("Ahlone Revisited", 1988 - untranslated), Aida comments on some of these angry letters, which raged at him in terms like "We did not cut off our prisoners' ears or their pricks!" This may have been an unconscious reference to the

memorial mound in Kyoto enshrining the thousands of ears of Koreans cut off by the Japanese invaders under the great warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi in the 16th century.

There is another interesting connection between Prisoner of the British and Gunner McEvoy's book. Aida describes how the Japanese prisoners formed a concert party. in which some of the prettier ones dressed up as geisha to entertain their captors and to amuse themselves. McFvov prints a care photo of the handmade "Invitation" and another of the neatly executed "Programme" for this entertainment dated 21 February 1946, with nine comedy and dance numbers, beginning with the famous geisha dance Hara no odori. This is described with some welcome banter by Aida: ". . . while they danced they twined artificial cherry blossom in their hands".

The captives also started a haiku composition society, made mah-jong sets from bamboo, and painted and calligraphed the popular card game known as Hvakunin-isshu ("One Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets") - a test of quick wits as well as of knowledge of classical tanka. Such episodes lighten considerably the last chapters of an otherwise rather distressing book, but one that is a tribute to the passionate sincerity of intentions in Aida's whole life and work. James Kirkup

ean de Lipkowski

an-Noël de Lipkowski, plomat and politician: born ris 25 December 1920: eputy for Seine-et-Oise 56-58, for Charentearitime 1962-97; Mayor of shan 1965-77, 1983-89; cretary of State, Foreign Tairs 1968-72, 1973-74; MEP 30-81: married 1963 Nadine cquet d'Orval (one son, e daughter); died Paris 20 ptember 1997.

fire than 6,300 candidates od in the French general Iction earlier this year. nongst those registered for first ballot on 25 May was en de Lipkowski. He was iding in the fifth circonnion of Charente-Maritime, S ran-ouest. He had been the Addist deputy for this seat

since 1962 and Mayor of Royan from 1965 to 1977, then from 1983 to 1989. He had lived in the region for many years, between the oyster beds and the vineyards. Čould anyone have been more strongly placed? But he had been told that,

at the age of 76, he was over the party-imposed age limit of 75. When he persisted in standing. he was expelled from the party and was forced to stand as dissident RPR (Rassemblement Pour la République) against an official RPR candidate. Inevitably he was defeated.

This was surely an ignominious end to the career of this loyal associate of General de Gaulle. He had been in the Resistance, as a Free French parachutist he had taken part in the liberation of France, he had

worked for de Gaulle in his political organisations and he had then served him in diplomatic and governmental posts.

But, whilst he had been somewhat bitter over his defeat and had suggested that it was high time that President Chirac proved his Ganllism, the end of his career demonstrated his outstanding characteristic: that of independence. During the campaign he had not hesitated to attack the official RPR candidate, comparing him to Brutus, and he had poured scorn on "the apparatchiks of the rue de Lille" (then the RPR headquarters). For him the aim of Gaullism was not to found a party, but to found a régime. The essence of Gaullism was loyalty to the General rather than to the party, to believe in

the nation and in social

Jean de Lipkowski was from a family distinguished by its patriotism. His father died as a hostage in the Second World War, and his mother, Irène de Linkowski, was in the Resistance and was deported, returning to France to become the president of an organisation for milies whose members had been killed as hostages or fighters in the Resistance. She subsequently became an independent deputy and lived until the age of 96.

Lipkowski entered the diplomatic service and represented France particularly in the Far East and in different parts of North Africa. He became good friends with Chiang Kai-shek and with President Sa-

time he was attracted by politics, and since the General was immured in Colombey-lesdeux-Eglises he turned to Pierre Mendès France (whom he knew through his mother). He was elected on the Mendès France programme for Seineet-Oise in 1956. But in December of that year he and Valéry d'Estaing headed a deputation to President Coty urging him to make de Gaulle Prime Minister. The President pointed out that de Gaulle would want to be more than

Prime Minister. In 1958 Lipkowski was one of the founders of the Centre de Réforme Républicaine, a left-wing Gaullist organisation (which at one time hoped to gain the support of Mendés

dat of Egypt. But at the same France). It was two years later that he was first elected as an official Gaullist in the Charente-Maritime.

During this period Soviet diplomats showed a particular interest in Lipkowski, who told them how de Gaulle was opposed to the creation of Nato (and it is relevant to note that last May one of the tests that he posed for President Chirac was how hostile was he to Nato). The Communists claimed to have an affinity with "Lip", as they called him, and at the height of the 1968 student "revolution" they asked him to convey to de Gaulle the assurance that they were opposed to

the "revolutionaries" and an offer of possible co-operation. In 1968 Lipkowski became Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and with his Minister, Michel Debré, decided on a new approach to Britain and the Common Market. The result was the "Soames affair", arising from a lunch between the General and the British ambassador, when it appeared that de Gaulle wished to inaugurate a new Europe, governed by four powers, France, Britain, Germany and Italy. Lipkowski, and others, believed that all the ill-feeling and misunderstanding that arose from this confusion was caused by the British desire to rush matters.

Lipkowski continued to serve in the same office under Pompidou and became an experienced diplomatic traveller. He was a great source of international knowledge: Chou en-Lai identified one French



'Lip': independent Photograph: Hulton Getty

politician as "the man who does not pay his income tax"; it was unwise to mention ballet to Brezhnev, since he would then talk for hours about it; Edward Heath at Chequers served tea made from tea-bags. He officially retired from the diplomatic service in 1986.

- Douglas Johnson

ouncements for Gazette THS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS ld be sent in writing to the sent in writing to the sent in writing to the set of the sent in the sent and are charged at £6.50 a line

Birthdays

Professor Struther Arnott, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, St Andrews University, 63; Mr Norman Ayrton, theatre and opera director, 73; Mr Ronnie Barker, comedian and writer, 68; Mr Leon Brittan QC, a Vice-

President, European Commission, 58; Sir Colin Davis, conductor, 70; Mr Michael Douglas, actor, 53; Sir John Farr, former MP, 75; Sir Florizel of Jamaica, 88; General Sir Edward Black Rod, 61; Miss Felicity Kendal, 65; Mr Gareth Thomas MP, 43; Miss

actress, 51; Professor Sir William Mitchell, physicist, 72; Mr Chris Pond MP, 45; Mr Christopher Reeve, actor, 45; Miss Vivien Stern, Secretary-General, Penal Reform International, 56; Commandant Daphne w, former Director, WRNS,

Rowena Vining, former diplomat, 76; Miss Barbara Walters, television newscaster and presenter, 66,

> **Anniversaries** Births: Sir Charles Blake Cochran.

Faulkner, novelist, 1897; Mark Christopher Columbus set sail on his second voyage, 1493; the Royal Court Theatre, London, opened, Rothko (Marcus Rothkovich), painter, 1903; Dmitri Dmitriyevich 1888. Today is the Feast Day of St Albert of Jerusalem, St Anacharius or Shostakovich, composer, 1906. Deaths: Samuel Butler, poet, writer and satirist, 1680; Emily Post (Price). Annaire, St Ceolfrith or Geoffrey, St Finbar (Fion-Bharr) or Bairre and St the Clown), 1974. On this day:

Lectures

RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Chris Bradley, "The Architecture of Yemen", 6.30pm.

Changing of the Guard The Henceled Caraby Means of Res

23/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Salomons agrees to \$9bn buyout by Travelers

The consolidation of Wall Street took another giant step when Travelers Group, owner of Smith Barney, paid \$9bn (£5.6bn) for the parent company of Salomon Brothers.

David Usborne in New York and Tom Stevenson in London assess the creation of the latest mega-corporation.

The latest in a series of giant mergers was unveiled on Wall Street yesterday as Salomon Incorporated, the parent of investment bank Salomon Brothers, said it had agreed to an all-share buyout by the financial services giant, Travelers

The after-shocks for Wall Street are expected to be monumental establishing Travelers, and its retail stockbroker Smith Barney, as a new Goliath on the securities landscape. It elevates the enlarged firm to the megainstitution status of rivals such as Merrill Lynch and the recently merged Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

The new company will be called Salomon Smith Barney 🔊 Holdings. Its creation is certain to trigger extensive lay-offs at both companies to eliminate overlapping, especially among fixed-income traders and analysts. News of the merger came as a complete surprise in London where only a handful of senior Salomons employees

were aware of the takeover. The agreement also sees the departure of Robert Denham, chairman and chief executive of Salomon, and confirms the rise and rise of Deryck Maughan, the 49-year old British chief executive of Salomon Brothers, who will serve as co-chief executive of the new firm alongside James Dimon, 41, chief executive of Smith Barney.

Mr Maughan's promotion is the culmination of a meteoric rise for the son of a Durham miner, who spent 10 years in the Treasury before moving into investment banking. He was promoted by Salomon's biggest shareholder, investment guru Warren Buffett, after the firm was found to have rigged US treasury bond auctions in 1991, the low point of a turbulent 10 years for the bank.

Mr Maughan took over as chairman and chief executive following the departure of three of Salomon's most highprofile directors, legendary chairman John Gutfreund, Salomon's president Thomas Strauss and trader John Meri-

Mr Maughan was seen then the epitome of the new squeaky clean image Mr Buffet wanted to foster following a famous description of the bank as "rotten to the core".

He was dubbed "Mr Integrity" by the Salomon staff who dominated the American bond market in the late 1980s and served as role models for the "Masters of the Universe" in Tom Wolfe's novel. Bonfire of the Vanities.

Mr Maughan worked in the British Treasury between 1969 and 1979 before being seconded to investment bank Goldman Sachs in London, where he stayed for four years before being lured over to Salomon in 1983.

In 1986, he went to Japan for five years building up the group's highly profitable Tokyo operation and had just returned to New York when the treasury scandal blew up. Peter Middleton, the former monk who unexpectedly quit Lloyd's of London to head up the bank's European operation,

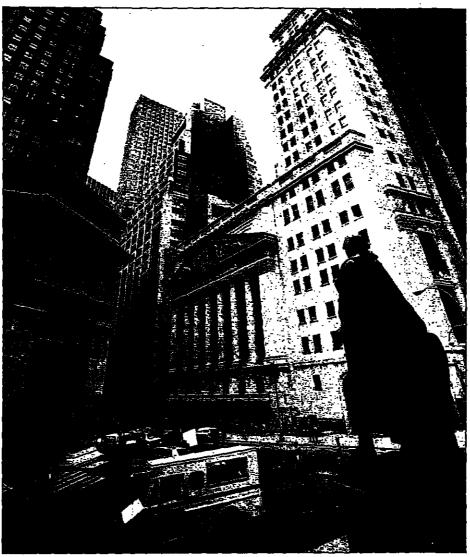
has been named head of the combined business in Europe. Salomon employs 1,500 in Europe, compared with Smith Barney's 250. Travelers, with its red um-

brella logo, has long been publicly parading its desire to find new partners and extend its operations. Headed by the highly regarded Sanford Weill. Travelers offers financial services ranging from life, property and casualty insurance to annuities and mutual funds.

complementary "The strengths of these two organisations ... will create a financially powerful and formidable competitor in virtually ever facet of the securities business, in any region of the world," Mr Weill said in a statement. Travelers is offering 1.13 shares of stock for every Salomon share.

Until only a few days ago, rumours had it that Mr Weill had his sights on Bankers Trust. It was suggested that Salomon was a second or third choice for Mr Weill. Goldman Sachs may have been his most favoured option but is understood to have resisted Travelers' advances.

Initial reaction to the Salomon deal was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. "We think this combination will create nothing short of a powerhouse," said Erik Gustafson of the Stein Roe Stock Fund, which has holdings in both companies.



Tremors on Wali Street: The mega-corporate deal between two US 'buige bracket' investment banks confirms the trend towards giant mergers

Even on Tuesday, shares of Salomon soared to a historic high of \$71.50 as first rumours of the buyout began to leak and speculators saw their chance for a killing. By mid-morning yesterday, they were trading at \$78

Attention is now likely to focus once more on the two securities houses that still remain independent on Wall Street but which have long been seen as inevitable targets for acquisition: Paine Webber and Lehman Brothers.

"The merger and acquisition mania is just going to continue,"

Funds suggested, "I don't think there's any company in financial services which is too big to be taken over".

There are serial attractions to yesterday's link-up. A good match is promised between Smith Barney's strong equity and retail operations with the famous fixed-income franchise of Salomon Brothers. In addition to its bond business, Salomon is also a force in commodities and global markets trading.

The deal also answers Mr Weill's desire to give Smith Barney an international pres-

Robert Froelich of Kemper ence that had been lacking. "I think that Mr Weill wanted that international footprint in Salomon Brothers," Mr Gustafson suggested. Salomon has a big network of offices world-wide. notably in London.

Questions will be asked, however, about Salomon's heavy dependence on the proprietary division, where traders make huge leveraged bets in the international bond markets with the firm's own capital.

This is a notoriously volatile business that Mr Weill may very well like to see phased out. : to Energis which last month. Outlook, page 25 stood at £230m.

The company has accumulated losses of £237m, while capital spending is still running at £100m a year. Under Mr Grabiner, who

National Grid's manage ment was at one stage criticised

for its heavy investment pro-

gramme in Energis, with £338m

so far injected into the venture.

was poached from British Telecom last year, Energis's customer base has expanded rapidly though better marketing. Last year the company The confirmation of the flotahad revenues of £97.1m and is tion plans follows two years of likely to push this to around uncertainty about the future of £160m this year. Energis, which runs telephone

It made losses of £54.2m before interest in 1996-97, but is on course to make a small profit, excluding its befty bill for interest and depreciation.

Energis was the world's first foreign telephones company, network built around electricity cables to use an advanced form of optical fibre technology which offers almost limitless capacity by compressing signals into digital information.

for several months. David Jones, National The company, which targets only business customers, also Grid's chief executive, would claims to have better reliability give few details of the share sale and fewer reported faults than yesterday, including the value the older long-distance netof the float or the size of stake likely to be offered to outside works of BT and the former Mercury operation, now part of Cable & Wireless Communi-

cations (CWC).

National Grid

for £1bn

National Grid has given

December flotation of

Chris Godsmark,

Energis.

the green light to a £lbn

Business Correspondent,

explains why Energis is

working hard to dispel

go the way of other

telecommunication

industry flotations.

fears that the shares will

wires along the long-distance

electricity transmission net-

with a private trade sale to a

though Mike Grabiner, Ener-

gis chief executive, said there

had been "no significant dis-

cussions" with other operators

National Grid had toyed

to float Energis

But analysts have speculated that the Grid would sell a quarter of the company, the minimum necessary to gain a full Stock Exchange listing. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has been signed up as Energis's financial advisers, with a prospectus due in November.

"For the foreseeable future we'd want to maintain the stake we finish up with after the sale. There's no strategy of selling down our stake in Energis," Mr Jones said. The £250m raised for the

Grid would pay off loans made

coupled with the fact that in- . ergis's network was already completed, meant it should be valued differently from some other telecommunications companies. Recent flotations of Orange, CWC and Ionica fixed wireless business have brought few gains for investors.

Mr Grabiner has aggres-

sively targeted the more lucra-

tive large business market.

specialising in internal phone

and data networks for cus-

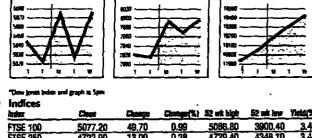
tomers such as the BBC and

He insisted this approach.

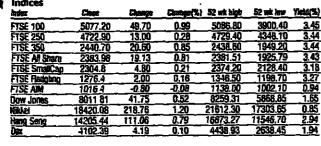
Boots, the retail giant.

STOCK MARKETS

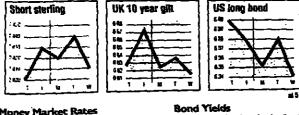
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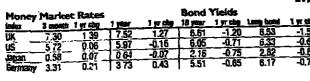


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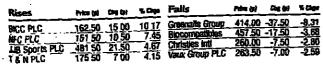


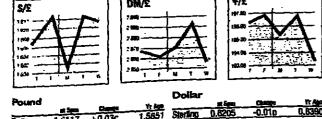
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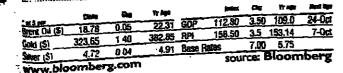
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Greenalls on brink of shareholders' revolt

Greenalls, one of the largest pub groups in the UK, yesterday shocked the stock market with a profits

Andrew Yates finds that the group could face a shareholder revolt if it fails to reverse the recent sharp decline in its share price.

warning.

Institutional shareholders in Greenalls yesterday expressed concerns about the future direction of the group after it said that trading at its managed pub estate had been flat over the summer months.

Greenalls shares tumbled 37.5p to 414p as analysts rushed to downgrade pre-tax profit forecasts for the year to September by £10m to around

Greenalls shares have had a dreadful run, falling from a high of 633p last year and underperforming the stock market by almost 40 per cent over the past 12 months.

One leading drinks analyst said: "There could be real pressure on Greenalls' management from shareholders if they do not improve the group's performance soon.

They seem to have taken their eye off the ball when they purchased Boddington and that is very worrying." Another analyst said: "They

should be achieving high singlefigure growth a least in their managed pub chain like other in the industry. This trading statement came as a big shock."

Lord Daresbury, Greenalls chief executive, said: "We are disappointed with the pub resuits. Our managed pub trade has been sluggish since the start of the summer. Some of our secondary community pubs

Greenalls relative to FT All-share

have underperformed and that is where we are focusing our ef-

forts now." Greenalls joined the FTSE

100 index after its acquisition of Boddington, the pub and hotel group, in November 1995. However the group, which has more than 2,200 pubs in its estate, was ejected from the FTSE just three months later and its share price has plum-

Greenalls said it had suffered from not spending enough money improving its pub chain while it integrated the acquisition of Boddington. It lost trade to competitors who were busy pumping millions of pounds into their own estaics.

Greenalls plans to accelerate its capital expenditure programme and has earmarked more than £100m for its pubs

this year, developing its branded chains such as Henry's Cafe Bar and Millers Kitchen. Analysts point out, howev-

er, that the group has spent £80m on its estate in the past 12 months and has got little to show for it.

"If this spending spree does not produce a decent return the group could face a shareholder revolt." said one analyst.

Greenalls also said trading in the North-west, where it has 50 per cent of its estate, contimed to be very difficult. It has decided to transfer another 79 managed pubs to its franchised and tenanted estate in an atterrot to reverse the poor performance at these sites.

Greenalls' chairman, Andrew Thomas, has also presided over a rapidly declining share price at Limelight, the troubled bathrooms and kitchens group that has been a disastrous performer since it floated last year.

BA axes losing route

British Airways yesterday raised the stakes in the battle to obtain regulatory approval for its American Airlines alliance by suspending its Glasgow-New York service and warning other long-haul routes were at risk if the tie-up was not sanctioned.

Bob Ayling, chief executive. said the route had lost £7m in the last three years and could only be made profitable by the extra feeder traffic the alliance with American would create.

The Glasgow-New York-Boston route is one of three transatlantic services operated by British Airways Regional. The airline said other long-haul regional routes might have to be scrapped if the alliance was blocked because there was insufficient local demand to keep them profitable.

Mr Ayling said: "We have maintained the route while we awaited approval for the alliance but we have now been waiting for over a year and we cannot continue to incur these huge losses."

BA announced the alliance in June 1996 but has since run into lengthy delays winning approval from regulators in Washington, London and Brussels.

The most serious opposition is coming from the EU Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, who earlier this week reiterated that the alliance would not be approved unless the two airlines gave up 350 slots a week at Heathrow - double the level of capacity the Office of Fair Trading wants to see cut to approve the deal.

The outcome of the US Department of Transportation's in vestigation of the alliance wil not be known until Decembe at the earliest.

The announcement of the Glasgow-New York suspension was coupled with a plea fror Mr Ayling for regional backin for the alliance to secure th long-haul services BA current ly operates.

- Michael Harrison

Brussels 'won't change its mind on duty-free sales'

The European

Commission yesterday launched an outspoken attack on efforts by the duty-free industry to reverse the looming ban on tax-free sales in 1999. As Chris Godsmark reports, the issue could provoke a damaging rift between the EC and some European governments.

Despite months of intense industry lobbying, Mario Monti, the European Commissioner responsible for taxation, made clear that the EC was not sympathetic to the campaign to continue with duty-free sales. The industry has claimed the abolition would mean the loss of many of the 140,000 jobs in the duty-free trade, worth more than £4bn across the EU. in a statement released dur-

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ing an industry conference in Brussels, Mr Monti said the decision to abolish duty-free sales. taken in 1992 by EU finance ministers, was not going to be changed even if lobbying budgets "increased to infinity".

"The time has come for airlines, airports and ferry operators, as well as suppliers of tobacco and alcohol products to face up to reality and invest their money wisely to get ready for 1999," said Mr Monti. "Seldom in the history of the EU has so much money and

time been spent by such a wide coalition of interests on trying to reverse the decision." The statement, the first by Mr Monti on the issue for several months, was attacked last night by BAA, the privatised group which owns Heathrow and Garwick airports. Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive.

has repeatedly predicted that

the Council of Ministers would

overturn the ban, which would take effect from 1 July 1999. Des Wilson, director of cor-

porate and public affairs, accused Mr Monti of acting dictatorially. The ultimate decision lies with the Council of Ministers, not the Commission. In saying this he's denying the Council's say on the matter. We'll continue to press out case. Mr Wilson said Mr Monti

was putting bureaucratic theory before the interests of consumers, who wanted duty-free sales to continue. The Irish government

backed the campaign yesterday, a move which will to put pressure on the UK government to clarify its position. Labour has yet to make a public statement on its policy on duty-free sales. Countries such as Britain, Ireland and the Nordic countries stand to lose most out of the

Chai Patel abandons Care First challenge public punch-up. Fund man-Chai Patel yesterday abandoned

his attempt to be reinstated as chief executive of Care First, the embattled nursing home group. He said only around 15 per cent of shareholders were prepared to approach SBC Warburg, Care First's advisors, to call an egm to vote on reinstating Mr Patel and ousting Keith Bradshaw, the group's chairman.

Mr Patel quit the company last month after a power struggle with Mr Bradshaw. Mr Patel, who is now preparing to resign his non-executive directorship said: "We can take no more action. Everyone is disappointed, but the institutions felt that the price of going public on this was too high.

Andrew Crossley at Invesco. one of the shareholders leading the call to remove Mr Bradshaw said: "In an ideal world, Keith Bradshaw would not be chairman. But in the end there was not sufficient appetite for a

agers felt the benefits of getting him out would be outweighed by a public scrap. We see no point in pushing the issue. We look forward to the recruitment of a new and strong chief executive." Another shareholder said: "I haven't spoken to anyone who thinks Bradshaw should stay. I am sure there will be lobbying behind closed doors, but no one was prepared to go public on it. But this is not the first time that shareholders have crumbled when it came to the crunch." Paul Saper at Laing &

Buisson said: "Shareholders had a chance to turn around their investment. The company will now find it very difficult to solve its problems. I would not be surprised if staff start

Care First is expected to release a statement today about events of the last week.

- Sameena Ahmad

Budget puts France firmly on track for EMU

The French government yesterday announced a relatively painless budget for 1998, which respects the Maastricht guidelines and glosses over Socialist campaign promises. A sharp uptake in the French economy and especially consumer spending - has come to Lionel Jospin's rescue. There is even talk in France of 'bringing forward' the European single currency, John Lichfield reports from Paris.

Three months ago it would have seemed impossible - ask President Jacques Chirac. He called - and lost - an early election partly because it seemed that the drawingup of a 1998 budget, respecting the EMU guidelines, would be a political and fiscal

The Socialist-led government yesterday

next year, increasing some taxes, cutting some spending, notably on defence, but respecting the Maastricht targets without enormous suffering.

There are two explanations for this seeming act of prestidigitation by the Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. The first is the rapid uptake if the French economy, which is officially projected to grow by 2.2 per cent this year and 3 per cent next year. Mr Strauss-Kahn even forecast vesterday that France would be the best economic performer in Europe and North America in 1998.

The surge in the French economy has been driven by record exports and the falling franc but also, at long last, by a re-covery of domestic demand. Figures released yesterday showed that consumer spending rose by 6.7 per cent in July (only to fall by 3.4 per cent with the holiday exodus in August).

There is a second explanation for the relative ease with which the Jospin government expects to meet the EMU target of a deficit of 3 per cent of GNP (the of-starting date for the single currency.

relatively painless £160bn draft budget for ficial projection is now a 3.1 per cent deficit. French officials have grown alarmed by the this year and 3.05 per cent next year). Mr Jospin and Mr Strauss-Kahn have, in effect, buried or delayed all but one of the economic promises and projects on which they fought and won the general election campaign in May.

> Yesterday's budget was a Socialist bud- ' get to an extent. It increased the tax burden on business and relatively well-off families and reduced the burden on the less well-off. It found money for job-creation projects for the young (the one promise clearly kept) and gave more money to education. But it imposed a freeze on most other spending and slashed defence allocations by 8.7 per cent.

no further tightening of the belt to meet the requirements of Maastricht; three months later EMU clearly rules in Paris.

The centre-left coalition government is now so much on board the Maastricht bandwagon - to the fury of some of its leftist constituent parts - that there is even talk in Paris of bringing forward the de facto

six-month gap in the Maastricht timetable between the final choice of participating countries and exchange rates (in the middle of next year) and the locking of currencies in January 1999. France fears this six-month hiatus will provide an irresistible roulette wheel for currency traders.

The treaty dates cannot easily be changed but French officials believe that some means might be found of, in effect, locking the exchange rates of EMU currencies together before the formal start-

None of this would be thinkable without the recovery of the French economy which eluded the previous centre-right gov-Mr Jospin had pledged there would be ernment of Alain Juppé for so long. The recovery is little of Mr Jospin's doing, except that the change of political direction does seem mysteriously to have boosted the "animal spirits" of the French economy and persuaded households, and businesses, to start spending for the first time in years.

Mr Jospin's right-wing critics immediately suggested yesterday that this would be a budget to kill those animal spirits stone classes and some sections of industry. The government disputes this.

It points out that the 1998 budget will not increase the state's consumption of French domestic product: the public sector will amount to 45.9 per cent next year, slightly less than the record of 46 per cent achieved in 1997 under a barely amended Juppé budget.

Taxes are increasing but they are also being adjusted to spare business which invests productively and to give as fairer deal to the less-well paid, who do badly under the French tax system. Some middle-class perks - including a tax break for domestic help - are being scaled back.

Pamily allowances are to be means-tested for the first time, a significant departure in welfare policy which may be extended to other areas. More of the cost of health policy is being shifted on to a "general social tax" which will hit savings as well as carnings.

Mr Strauss-Kahn, the Economy Minister, described it as a "frugal budget" which Dominique Strauss-Kahn: Respecting would correct several "fiscal injustices".



targets without enormous suffering

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Barratt chief warns rate rises may damage housing market

Sir Lawrie Barratt, the retiring chairman of Barratt Developments, warned that further interest rises could put the housing market recovery in jeopardy. Current rates of 8.5 per cent were not an issue but he said: "Each I per cent would damage confidence and if they got back to 10 per cent it would result in very severe damage to confidence." He also renewed his call for the Government to resist further attacks on mortgage interest relief. "If they are not careful, they will go down a suicide route of putting off first-time buyers." He called for a new partnership hetween the industry and government of the type that existed under Margaret Thatcher's administration. His comments came as Barratt unveiled a 35 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £70.1m for the year to June and said it was on course to raise UK completions from 7,710 to more than 8,500 in the current year. Investment column, page 27; People & Business, page 28

Scotia launches diet product

Scotia, the biotechnology group, is preparing to launch a food supplement product which could replace health-scare hit weightloss drugs in the diet regimes of millions of obese Americans. The product, called Ileal Brake, is a fat fragment found in oily foods which, when eaten quickly, persuades the brain that the eater is full. In trials, subjects eating a yoghurt laced with Ileal Brake consumed 15 to 30 per cent fewer calories. Skane Mejerier, the Swedish milk company, plans to launch an Ileal Brake yoghurt next year and a leading US consumer group, likely to be Unilever, Proctor & Gamble or Johnson & Johnson, is developing products containing Ileal Brake which could be launched in the US in two years' time. David Horrobin. Scotia's chief executive, said the supplement had the potential to replace the phen-fen combination drugs which have been implicated in health scares in the US. Investment column, page 27; People & Business, page 28

Manager shuffle at Burton

Burton Group has appointed Andy King, currently managing director of Burton Menswear, as managing director of menswear brands as part of the restructuring of its multiples businesses, including Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop and Burton Menswear, into a single division. Steve Longdon, managing director of Top Shop/Top Man, becomes managing director of womenswear and Hilary Riva, managing director of DH Evans, becomes managing director of speciality brands. Stephen Sunnucks, managing director of Dorothy Perkins, will become manager of new business development in the new structure. Michael Sharp and Belinda Earl have been appointed trading directors of a newly formed buying and merchandising division.

Travel tax plan dropped

Accountants have welcomed the Inland Revenue's climbdown over proposed rules on the tax treatment of employee travel. The draft regulations would have meant that staff on business trips would have had to deduct from expense claims any savings resulting from not travelling to their normal workplace. But, following a campaign by tax professionals, officials have abandoned the plan.

New guidelines for interims

Companies are to be encouraged to issue interim reports within 60 days of the end of an interim period and use the same bases and accounting policies as in annual financial statements under a "best practice" guidance statement published by the Accounting Standards Board today. Auditors welcomed the statement, saying it would promote greater consistency.

Idoxifene trials start

SmithKline Beecham has started Phase III clinical trials of idoxifene for the prevention of osteoporosis, according to BTG, which funded early development work and exclusively licensed Smith-Kline in 1994 to develop and market all indications of idoxifene, which was first identified as a treatment for breast cancer. Preclinical and early clinical trials carried out by SmithKline have confirmed that idoxifene mimics the beneficial effects of oestrogen on bone density in the skeleton. BTG will receive a further milestone payment from SmithKline. This payment, together with any future milestone payments and royalties on sales, will be shared with the sources of the invention.

Chesterfield sets aside £2.8m

Chesterfield Properties will make a £2.8m provision in the 1997 accounts as agreement has been reached over a long-running building contract dispute. The dispute relates to the development of the 207,000 sq ft office scheme at 133 Houndsditch, London, and dates back to completion of the development in 1991. Chesterfield's chief executive. Robert Maxted, said: "It was my decision to end the arbitration process and negotiate a final settlement so as to concentrate management resources on building the business rather than defending a claim which could continue for years."

Emerald Energy raises £3m

Emerald Energy is raising approximately £2,99m by placing 61.85 million new ordinary shares at 5p each with institutional clients of its sponsor, WH Ireland. Dealings are expected to commence on Monday. Emerald's chairman, Iain Alexander, said the proceeds would provide additional working capital for the company operations in Colombia and West Virginia.

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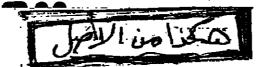
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THE INDEPENDENT THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1997



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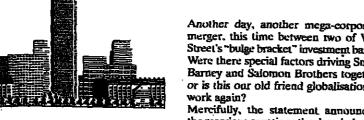
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STREET, STREET,

Wall Street marriage that smacks of 'me too'



OUTLOOK ON US BANKING MERGERS. PRIVATISING THE TUBE AND THE **ENERGIS FLOTATION** Another day, another mega-corporate merger, this time between two of Wall Street's "bulge bracket" investment banks, Were there special factors driving Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers together or is this our old friend globalisation at

Mercifully, the statement announcing the marriage mentions the dreaded word only once (a remarkable achievement when set against the extraordinary outpouring of global gobbledegook visited upon us by Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse last week) but there is no mistaking the general tone of what Sandy Weill, the charismatic chairman of Travelers Group, is saying here.

Yes, it is all about the perceived need to get bigger and bigger to meet the challenges of a progressively integrating world

This is a very similar merger to that announced earlier this year between Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter, and there is undoubtedly an element of me-too-ism in what Travelers is doing here. Again a wholesale investment bank with a substantial presence in international capital markets is being brought together with one of the US's largest retail stock brokers. Smith Barney has an outlet in every town of substance the length and breadth of the land. As with the Morgan Stanley deal, it is not immediately apparent why a merger of two such different strands of the investment banking world should either work or yield much in the way of benefit

While it is true that there is some potential for cost-cutting, again the lack of fundamental overlap between the two businesses may make this quite limited. There will be extensive layoffs among bond traders and analysts, but that is where the process largely stops. Size in itself will also yield some benefit in the way of cheaper capital. Furthermore, Salomon gets a ready made and captive distribution network for its capital-raising escapades. There is also something to be said for the argument that size for the sake of it gives competitive edge by allowing executives to take risks that would be unthinkable for smaller organisations. Big companies can gobble up business opportunities in a way that smaller ones cannot.

If for no other reason than this, others in the industry, including our own dwindling band of independent integrated investment banks here in Britain, will feel themselves duty bound to respond.

But where does it all end? There's one person that always fails to get a mention in all this global corporate empire building - the poor old customer. As often as not, these mergers are more about crunching and exploiting the customer than serving him.

Deryck Maughan, chief executive of Salomon, is a sensible chap on the whole, as you would expect from a former Treasury man. He's also achieved astonishing success in restoring the Salomon name after the "rotten to the core", Bonfire of the Vanities frolics of the 1980s.

But is not this race for the "truly glob-

al corporation" its own form of vanity? Whether it will all end in a bonfire is anyone's guess but there is at least a reasonable possibility of it.

Is Blair going down the Tube?

Is Tony Blair about to ditch another old Labour shibboleth and privatise the Tube? Before the election he was, of course onnosed to the sale of London Underground. Things have a remarkable habit of looking different in office, however, particularly when the Chancellor is busy buttoning the hairshirt even tighter and the funding applications begin to roll in.

As things stand it is all but impossible to see how public ownership of the Tube can ever deliver a decent, reliable, modern transport system for the capital. The investment backlog is currently running at something like £1.5bn and is in danger of being made even worse by the Jubilee Line extension which is sucking in cash like a speeding tube train sucks in air.

Stuck in the straitjacket of public sector financing there is no way that this shortfall will ever be made good. The alternative of allowing the Underground to raise its own capital through revenuebacked bonds would simply amount to expensive government borrowing by another

Nor is the sticking plaster solution of the Private Finance Initiative sufficient to heal the gaping wounds in the Underground's finances. The PFI may be able to handle new rolling stock for the Northern Line but it is not equipped to fund the £400m needed every year to modernise the overall network.

A full-blooded private sector solution could prove both simple and elegant, however. Use the proceeds of flotation to fund the investment backlog and then allow commercial acumen to do the rest. Last year the Underground made an operating profit of £155m on sales of £807m and received grants of a little under £400m to invest in the core business.

In return for effectively giving the private sector the assets taxpayers could expect to reduce their ongoing funding liability. But this would be offset by the greater efficiency that private operation ought to bring to the operation of the Underground system and the cost of funding its upkeep. Whether that private sector involvement is achieved by selling off the infrastructure separately from the franchises, as with British Rail, or creating a series of vertically integrated operators owning both track, stations and passenger lines remains open.

One easy way to make the system profitable would be to close down stations which are in areas of the capital already well served - say Covent Garden - and redevelop the sites. That would be a stop too far. The challenge for Mr Blair and his ministers will therefore be to devise a system of ownership and control which balances public accountability with sufficient incentives to attract private capital. Privatisation of the Tube may remain unpalarable to many within Mr Blair's ranks but the more important realisation is that it looks like being a bankable proposition.

Living in hope at Energis

Here we go again. A flotation of a telephone operator with little in the way of track record and income much less profits but with a lot of hope invested. National Grid's confirmation that it is to float a minority stake in Energis made up in byperbole what it lacked in financial detail. One suggestion is that in 10 years Energis will be worth more than the parent company itself, so great are the growth prospects in the business communications market.

Yet if other recent telecoms floats are anything to go by, the prospects are not encouraging as the experiences of Orange, Cable & Wireless Communications and the latest quoted telecoms stock Ionica, testify all too painfully. . Energis may parade its flashy high tech network, but critics would no doubt point out that it lacks many of the lucrative final connections to

The reality may be brighter, because Energis has wisely steered clear of the consumer market and has carved an impressive niche in providing private networks in the media and retail industries. Whether that justifies a valuation of £1bn is another matter altogether.

Ex-Yamaichi boss held over illegal payments

Japan's racketeering scandai deepened after a former president of Yamaichi Securities was arrested and seven top Daiwa Securities executives resigned, writes Tom Stevenson.

Tokyo prosecutors said vesterday they had arrested Atsuo Miki, former president of Yamaichi Securities, for his role in alleged illegal payments to gangsters.

The arrest is the latest move. in a scandal that has touched Japan's most powerful investment houses and caused lastas a world financial centre.

Mr Miki resigned as president last month to take re-

sponsibility for the scandal, in which Yamaichi is accused of paying ¥79m (£410,000) to socalled "sokaiya" gangster Ryuichi Koike. Mr Koike is already under arrest for his role in accepting illegal payments from securities houses in exchange for not disrupting their annual meetings or exposing dubious financial practices.

Separately yesterday, Daiwa Securities said its president, chairman and five other top executives would resign at the end of the month. The departures, which mean Daiwa joins a growing list of top companies embroiled in the scandal, followed a raid on the securities house's offices last week.

Payments to sokaiya have en illegal in Japan impossible to break their ties

organised crime has close links with legitimate business, especially the construction and financial sectors, and ridding the system of corruption has become one of the government's greatest challenges.

The payments scandal has surfaced at a crucial time for Japan's financial industry just as it is preparing for a raft of financial reforms - dubbed, inevitably, Big Bang - designed to liberalise the country's formerly closed markets.

During the summer, Nomura and Dai-Ichi Kangyo, a bank, had parts of their operations shut down as punishment for payments to the same sokaiya extortionist. More than a dozen Nomura and DKB executives were indicted and former chairman of the bank committed suicide rather than panies were banned from participating in government bond issues until next year.

Daiwa said yesterday its president and chairman had never met Mr Koike and were not involved in the scandal. They were resigning, however, to take responsibility for the damage done to the firm's credibility.

As an indication of the extent to which the resignations were simply a token gesture, Daiwa admitted that it would probably not publish an internal investigation into the payoff affair. The firm also said the executives would remain advisers to Daiwa.

The sokaiya scandal is only part of the problem afflicting en in the run-up to its Big Bang. Its banks and securities of Tokyo's problems, others houses are also accused of enwith the underworld. In Japan, face interrogation. Both com- couraging the asset-price in- of corruption.

flation of the late 1980s and mishandling its collapse in the early 1990s. That incompetence threatens to turn Tokyo the economy but he failed to into a financial backwater - already a third of the trading in give any firm pledges on taking

pore and 15 per cent of Japanese shares are traded in London. As an attempt to reverse Tokyo's decline, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto anbacking moves to complete the single market and enlarge

Nikkei 225 futures is in Singa-

nounced last November, a blueprint for deregulation of the tightly controlled financial markets. The barriers between banks, securities houses and other institutions will be removed, as will foreign exchange

While some analysts beve Big Bang can solve some think it could increase the level

Tony Blair yesterday sought to reassure business leaders over the Government's approach to Europe and management of

sterling into a single currency at a future point. The Prime Minister said that Britain would play a constructive role when it takes over the presidency of the European Union next year, by

But senior industrialists attending a working breakfast in Downing Street failed to hear any firm commitment from the Prime Minister in favour of economic and monetary union. He said the Government was reserving its options on the sin-

the EU.

Mr Blair also avoided re-

sponding directly to worries about the impact that the strong pound was having on exports and competitiveness, confining himself to a pledge that government policies were designed to create the stable environment in which business could flourish.

Blair offers no promises on single currency

Emerging from the breakfast, businessmen were largely positive about their meeting with Mr Blair. Sir Richard Sykes, chairman

of Glaxo Wellcome, said: "The Prime Minister has a very clear understanding of business in this country, what needs to be done both in terms of the infrastructure, the human infrastructure - education, skills, getting the right people into the workplace - and in terms of what we need to be competitive in the world."

Jan Leschly, chief executive

of SmithKline Beecham, argued that business wanted a single currency. "From our standpoint, we are very much in favour of a single currency... you just have to do it carefully."

Dr Walter Hasselkus, chairman of the Rover Group, described the atmosphere "as very impressive, very open".

Mr Blair also fleshed out his plans to improve the workings of Whitehall through a job swap scheme between business and the Civil Service.

A new group, headed by Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler and Confederation of British Industry President Sir Colin Marshall, will oversee the development of shorter, more flexible secondments from the civil service into industry, and seconding businessmen into the civil service.

Michael Harrison



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Footsie within reach of record as analysts turn bullish again

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Blue chips again nudged their tied for a year-end forecast of best-ever levels, helped along 4,800. by a series of analyst meetings and Footsie optimism from Nat West Securities.

The index closed at 5,077.2 points, up 49.7. It is the second time in three days it has moved to within hailing distance of the 5,086.8 closing peak, hit six weeks ago.

claim to have been the most bullish market strategist at the start of the year when he forecast Footsie would hit 4,600. At the time it was at a then peak of 4,118.5.

In the event he was too cantious, with Footsie achieving his target long before he had expected.

Now he has moved his 12month estimate from 5,200 to rent trading period - six 5,600. He is, however, nervous about the performance in the usually goes into purdah until next few months and has set-

A number of influences have prompted the new Semple builtshness. He has latched onto a forecast fall in gilt yields; indications that the economy is not overheating; the shortage of new issues; and the absence of the muchfeared deluge of profit down-Nat West's Bob Semple can gradings in the current results season.

> The better-than-expected trading, which has become increasingly evident as the season has unfolded, has been further underlined by the response to meetings between companies near to drawing up their half-year figures and an-

> Once it completes its curmonths or a year - a company

Among those which have ternational remained in the met or are meeting analysts are Granada, up 18p at 864.5p, Northern Foods (6.5p to HSBC led blue chips with

237p): Haziewood Foods (6.5p to 144p) and Imperial Chemical Industries (5p to 988.5p). Carlton Communications met fund managers at Henderson Crosthwaite on Tuesday and Booker, the cash and carry group that recently prodirector buying. duced half-year figures, is

the analytical treadmill. A solid New York opening, firm Gilts and even the \$9bn Salomon Brothers/Travelers merger were other factors behind the latest exuberance which also gently embraced second- and third-liners.

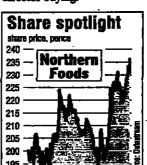
meeting analysts today and to-

morrow. Unigate is another on

Pubs chain Greenalls, another talking to analysts, missed the fun, falling 37.5p to

dumps, off a further 17.5p to

a 68.5p gain to 2,007p; Rail- the activity. track, enjoying speculation about possible benefits from any privatisation of the London Underground, moved ahead 23.5p to 890.5p and Boots added 24p to 863.5p on



Shell was again the most heavily traded share with Seaq putting volume at 57 million. Derivative action was behind

Rank rose 8.5p to 353.5p as Henderson said buy and British Petroleum enjoyed buy advice from BZW gaining 15.5p to 911.5p.
Royal Bank of Scotland

cent shareholder Banco Santander of Spain resurfaced. National Grid fell 4p to

was ruffled by competition and watch maker Dailywin worries, losing 11.5p to 470.5p. Brent International, the chemical group, rose 6.5p to 86p (after 93.5p) in busy trading and NFC, the transport two British nurses hit groups

· Meconic, a chemical group, produced the day's profit warning, retreating 32.5p to 315p. The shares have fallen from 422.5p since the spring.

There was talk of corporate action on the forecourt with suggestions a garage group was indulging in a cash-raising exercise. One suggestion was Sanderson Bramall, up 7.5p at hardened 12.5p to 651.5p as 225p, was planning to renew stories of a bid from 9.9 per its interest in struggling Appleyard, the country's fifth-

largest dealer. Another takeover ap-282.5p after confirming the proach to the JLT food group lifted the shares 10.5p to 55.5p ticked 10p better to 112.5p on

its Hong Kong listing. The growing diplomatic crisis over the sentences on the group, advanced 10.5p to with strong links with Saudi 151.5p on talk of a share buy-back. Arabia British Aeruspace, for example, fell 23p to 1,627.5p.

TAKING STOCK

More, the outdoor advertising group reporting interim figures today, is planning to transmit posters into bus shelters. It intends to fit flat television screens in shelters so it can project static displays which could be changed a number of times each day. Interim profits are likely to be around £8m (£6.2m). The shares were little changed 677p.

SIG, the acquisitive insulation group, was actively traded with a series of mixed deals going through. The price firmed 4p to 312.5p. It has just completed the £25.9m takeover of Roskil: further corporate action is rumoured.

Emerald Energy raised nearly £3m through a 5p share placing by stockbroker WH Ireland. The cash is needed for its Colombian and US drilling programmes. The shares held at

	next few months and has set- it declares its results.	414p. And Biocompatibles In-	back.	tample, fell 23p to 1,627.5p. 5.25p.
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source: Bloomberg

27/BUSINESS

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Barratt gets up from its knees

Sir Lawrie Barratt, the outgoing chairman of Barratt Developments, was making much vesterday of the group's consistent performance since his return to the chair in 1991.

He omitted to mention the £106m loss the group chalked up that year to extricate itself from some ill-advised land purchases in the late 1980s. But all that was forgotten as Sir Lawrie unveiled pre-tax profits up 35 per cent to £70.1m in what he hopes will be, finally, his valedictory year as chairman. The figure is still below the £77.5m record achieved in 1988, when he retired the first time.

But, in retrospect, that represented Barratt's high-water mark, before the overheated housing boom of the 1980s almost brought the group to its knees. There are good grounds for believing

that history will not repeat itself. Barratt points to a much more stable market this time, while its policy of maintaining land purchases consistently through the housing recession means that it is not now having to desperately scrabble for land as prices, at least in the South-

Market value: £612m, share price 264p (+0.5p)

Dividends per share (a) 3.79

Turnover (9m)

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnings per share (p)

Operating margin %

east, move rapidly against them.

rise to above 8,500 this year.

Burratt's target of achieving 11.000

completions by the year 2000 looks well

on course, with last year's 7,710 likely to

The gearing effect could be substan-

tial: last year's 10 per cent rise in volumes

and 4 per cent rise in average prices pro-

bank purchases is creeping up. Last year

they rose from 21.8 to 24.5 per cent of

eventual selling prices as the group

splashed out in the expensive South-east.

interest-rate sensitive first-time buyer

market, which accounts for 25 per cent

of sales. The group must also fill the gap

Barratt also remains exposed to the

duced a 35 per cent jump in profits. But caveats remain. The cost of land

Barratt Developments: At a glance

Five-year record 1993 1994 1995 1986 1997

25.2

47.1

15.2

Share price, pence

1992 93

These may prove niggles and the US, where losses of £2m should be eliminated this year, could prove a useful outlet for Barratt's energies if the UK market becomes overblown. Meanwhile, if Barratt can turn in profits of £86m this year. the shares, up 0.5p at 264p, stand on a lowly multiple of 11. Reasonable value.

Scotia scrabbles for a success

Scotia's recent licensing deal for Foscan, its cancer laser treatment, looks good, but that should not blinker investors to the fact that, after eight years at the bench. the biotechnology group has still not proved the worth of its controversial oilbased technology. The agreement struck money-spinner with Boerhinger Ingelheim of Germany and the Japanese group Kyowa Hakko is welcome. It boosts the group's fast-depleting cash pile and gives Scotia a gen-

erous 25 per cent royalties on future sales. Though the deal breathed new life into

52.1

94 95 96 97

Scotia's shares, which picked up a further

sults, the price has still not recovered from

the news in March that Tarabetic, Scotia's

lead drug for diabetic nerve damage, which

has been under development since 1991, failed to win UK approval. That an-

the group's value in a day.

5.69 7.10 8.25 9.0

714

70:1

at managing director level caused by Frank will eventually get approval. It is equally Eaton's elevation to the role of executive confident about its treatment for cancer, codenamed EF13, and EF5 for arthritis. However recent news that EF5 does not work in one group of trial patients is hardly reassuring.

> The technology needs to work if Scotia is to justify the money it is ploughing into research and marketing. Increases in these costs in the half-year to June meant operating losses deepened by almost three-quarters to £13m. Even its £60m of available cash is only enough to last two years. That Scotia is already scrabbling for new ways to raise funds - like a Nasdaq listing or spinning off its fast-growing nutrients business - sits uncomfortably with the view of David Horrobin, chief executive, that Scotia will be cash-positive by 2000. Until Scotia scores a drug success, the shares are high enough.

Regent remains a

Regent is one of the many go-go pub stocks which have been able to achieve both booming profits and a soaring share price. That was until six months ago, Since then, Regent's shares have slumped. From a high of 373.5p, they have dropped to 324p, down another 12.5p yesterday despite the announcement of a 57 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.6m for the year to July.

The fall has been caused by fears that Regent will be hard pushed to sustain this growth rate. It is true that the rate of expansion is bound to slow.

Like-for-like sales growth is running at 7 per cent, which compares with the double-digit growth the group has achieved over the past few years.

Even so, Regent should still be able to increase profits by at least 30 per cent both this year and next. It plans to open 30 pubs in the next 12 months, close to double last year's total of 17.

Given that most of the group's estate still lies within the M25, there is plenty of scope to expand across the country. It has already gained a foothold in the Midlands and the North.

Its new pub brands, such as Walkabout Inns, a chain of Australian theme bars, 18.5p to 436p on yesterday's interim re- are going great guns.

The nationwide expansion of its Jongleurs comedy club should also prove to be a money-spinner.

The fear is that sites will eventually dry up as competitors scramble for the choice nouncement lopped almost a quarter off locations, while the length of time taken to get an licence grows all the time. How-Scotia must prove that it can turn ever that should not hinder Regent unevening primrose oil into real prescrip- duly for the next few years at least.

tion drugs, not just food supplements and Wise Speke forecasts current year proftreatments for ailments such as eczema. its of £16.5m, putting the shares on a Most other drug groups have already dis-prospective price/earnings ratio of 20.

The group's great growth potential jusmissed oil-based technology in favour of proteins. The question is whether Scotia tifies this premium rating. In fact the reknows something that the others do not. cent slide in the share price makes The company believes that Tarabetic Regent look attractive.

Telewest charges to carry channels

Telewest

Communications is to charge TV broadcasters for using its cable network. Cathy Newman reports on the latest initiative by the ailing cable industry.

Telewest, the second-largest UK cable company, said yesterday it had agreed to carry an un-named analogue cable channel in return for a seven-figure sum. The decision is unprecedented for cable companies, which pay programmers such as BSkyB to carry channels.

A spokesman for Telewest said: "The formula for negotiations with channel providers is changing. Whereas in the past, analogue capacity was freely available, and cable companies were seeking new content, analogue capacity is now at a premium, and many more channels are available."

Telewest's network carries around 50 analogue channels. The company's spokesman said yesterday there was "precious little" spare capacity left.

He said the company was discussing the proposals with other channel providers. Theoretically, BSkyB could be forced to pay Telewest to carry its channels in the future, but the negotiations at this stage are thought to focus on new channels and those hoping to renew carriage contracts with the cable company. Smaller niche-orientated channels are likely to be hardest hit by Telewest's change of strategy.

Cable companies such as Telewest have attacked the high fees charged by BSkyB and other programmers, which have consistently eroded margins. In the first half of the year, Telewest's gross margin on cable television dropped to 39.3 per cent and the company has been forced to cut costs.

Last month, Telewest, which serves almost 600,000 of the 2 sion to charge channels for car-



Stephen Davidson: Behind the decision to charge

million cable television homes in the UK, announced plans to slash 1,400 jobs in a restructuring designed to cut costs by 20 per cent a year.

The cable company's deci-

riage is the latest initiative adopted by its chief executive. Stephen Davidson, in the hattle to squeeze more value out of its programme providers. Last month, the company refused to carry Sky's National Geographic Channel and dropped Sky News in areas where it was not contractually obliged to take the service. Sky News will, in these regions, he replaced by the BBC's 24-hour news service.

However, the cable industry has been fragmented in its opposition to BSkyB. Cable & Wireless Communications, the largest cable group, broke ranks with the rest of the industry almost a month ago when reports surfaced that it had agreed to use the satellite broadcaster as its exclusive pay-per-view supplier. Although no announcement has yet been made, news of the negotiations undermined attempts by a consortium of other cable companies to form their own pay-per-view venture.

One2One gets US West chief Improving Brake's shares jump

US West yesterday stamped its authority on One2One, the mobile phone network which it jointly owns with Cable & Wireless, by appointing its second executive in a row as managing director.

Tim Samples, currently vicepresident of US West's domestic wireless operations, will take over at the helm on 1 October. The move follows the recent surprise news that Jan Peters. the American managing director credited with turning round One2One's fortunes, was returning to the states to take a better job with US West.

The appointment of another US West figure is likely to quash any speculation that the company was under pressure to sell its stake in the network to C&W, which has yet to incorporate a mobile business into Cable & Wireless Communications, its £4bn merged telecommunications group. US

West and C&W collaborate in other parts of the world, but have also had a difficult relationship in the past.

Speaking from the US last night, Mr Samples, 39, said he could not comment on the issue of One2One's long-term ownership, though on past experience he was likely to stay at least three years in the post. "Both partners are very pleased with the momentum and they're very anxious to keep up the pace," he said, adding that it would be premature to suggest any changes to the business.

Under Ms Peters One2One expanded its coverage outside its traditional base of London and the South-east under a billionpound investment programme. A high-profile television advertising campaign saw customer growth soar above Vodafone and Cellnet, the two market leaders, in the first months of the year. – Chris Godsmark

Shares in Brake Brothers, the catering supplies group, rose 15.5p to 489p yesterday after the company claimed to have cracked most of the problems at its troubled Puritan Maid food distribution operation.

Even so, there was a warning of further losses to come after "severe problems" at the business slashed the group's profits in the half-year to June.

Frank Brake, chairman, yesterday hailed the business as "one of the higgest successes in the first half of 1997". According to Mr Brake, the worst at Puritan Maid was over. The rescue operation had been a success, he said, adding that recent months had seen significant reductions in costs. The Board is confident that Puritan

Maid will break even by 1998. A series of "inappropriate contracts" resulting from "management misjudgement" were blamed for the downturn

at the business, acquired from . Forte in November 1995.

Puritan Muid saw operating profits of £1m turn into a loss of £3.9m in the latest figures, in line with expectations following a warning in December. when Brake's shares crashed. The group said that a further "small loss" was also likely in the second half.

Sorting out Puritan Maid . has involved restructuring some contracts and terminating others. It has also been costly - first-half Puritan Maid operating expenses were up by almost 40 per cent on last year. The resulting losses more than wiped out a 12 per cent jump in profits in the core frozen foods distribution business.

.Overall, group profits slid 13 per cent to £11.2m in the six months to June, although the half-way dividend rises 10 per cent to 3.2p.

- Lea Paterson

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iPE considers electronic dealing switch

The International Petroleum Exchange has set up a committee to examine whether it should cominue with its current system of open outcry floor trading or switch to electronic dealing. It is also looking at proposals that it should stop being a member-owned exchange in favour of converting to a normal for-profit company owned by shareholders.

Richard Reinert, chairman of the IPE board of directors, 'said: "There has clearly been a groundswell of opinion from prominent and active memhers that these two fundamental issues need to be considered before making long-term decisions about the future of the

The cost of moving to better premises and retaining open

The relative merits of open outery trading and more modern electronic systems was thrown under the spotlight last week by an alliance between France's Matif futures market and Germany's and Switzerland's Eurex joint venture. The combined trading group, mainly using electronic trading, is being seen as a deliberate attempt to challenge Liffe's traditional floor trading, which has so far dominated Europe's deriva-

MJN 200M

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outcry has been estimated at £5m. In addition, IPE is already committed to a share of the costs of rebuilding the Trade Registration System it shares with other futures exchanges such as the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe).

tives trading.

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ered speaker system, software MPEG. Year 2000 compliant BIOS, PS/2 mouse port. fast serial port, parallel port, games port, Microsoft' Windows' 95 and Lotus SmartSuite 97. MJN Interest Free Option Buy Now Pay Later

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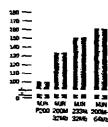
4.3Gb Ultra ATA hard drug 24 speed MAX CD-ROM dave

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system (MJN P200 16Mb Davis Winstone 97 benchmarks. The 200M-2 systems with their 64Mb



Good government will bring financial markets to heel

The pace of progress at the annual World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings is, usually, glacial. The assorted dignitaries can spend years talking in impenetrable jargon about decisions whose implications are, to all except afficionados, completely obscure. This year's meeting in Hong Kong brought, by contrast, big and even startling developments.

Some of them were less obviously exciting than others. For instance, the IMF got the go-ahead for a quota increase and redistribution and a special allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR). Dry as it sounds, this subject caused a massive row between the developed and developing nations three years ago, and delicate negotiations have been going on ever since. What it means is that member govcriments have agreed to increase the IMF's capital by 45 per cent, and tilt the balance of shareholding in the fund to better reflect the growing economic strength of newly industrialised countries.

In addition, the new allocation of the IMF's Special Drawing Rights, its basket currency, will also give member countries a fair share. These apparently technical housekeeping agreements are part of the process of giving fast-growing countries a greater voice in the international financial

Of more obvious interest was the unexpected focus of the meetings on what the IMF and World Bank should be doing in



DIANE COYLE ON LESSONS **LEARNT** AT THE IMF **IAMBOREE**

the modern world, and the consensus that the answer is reducing poverty, furthering social goals, making government more open and transparent, and cracking down on corruption. In short, the delegates talked about how to make the world a better place, and agreed on the steps needed even though in some cases this was inevitably only a matter of paying lip service.

However, this surprise agreement on the ends produced a fissure between the developed and developing countries over the means. The new split showed up in several ways, most dramatically in the war of words between Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, and the financier George Soros. But it was also revealed by the developing countries' resistance to plans for the IMF to enhance the free flow of capital around the world, and by surprise Japanese proposals for an Asian Monetary Fund whereby Asian neighbours would give each other financial support.

The disagreement boils down to one group of countries having second thoughts about capital liberalisation after this summer's currency and stock market crisis in South-east Asia. There was a fear amongst developing country finance ministers and bankers that if global capital could do this to the Tiger economies then nobody would be safe from the risk of a sudden crisis. They put out a statement saying that while they would support "orderly" capital liberalisation, it must not be allowed to put too

much stress on countries already struggling to adjust to globalisation. They gave only tentative backing to the IMF's wish to amend its articles to make freedom of capital movements as well as free movement of goods and services fundamental to its

These hesitations were reflected in support for the idea of an Asian Monetary Fund, a \$100bn (£62bn) fund that would stand ready to support any country in the region that got into the kind of crisis they have seen this summer. The fund would therefore be a kind of barrier that could be raised when the tides of free capital became too disruptive.

There are some good arguments against putting this kind of defence system in place, the main one being the question of "moral hazard". This means simply that investors would take bigger risks knowing that a large pot of money was ultimately available to bail them out than they would if there was

With investors in Mexico rescued in 1995, and investors in Thailand in 1997, how long would it be before another country facing a run on its currency decided the time had come to activate the new fund?

However, the point is that the battered Asian economies are keen to sign up to such a fund because they feel they need protecting from the odd hurricane in the financial markets. After this summer, free capital flows look pretty destructive.

est in Hong Kong in the high drama - or was it farce? - of the Mahathir/Soros debate. Mr Mahathir complained: "Quite a few people who are in the media and in control of the big money seem to want to see these South-east Asian countries and in particular Malaysia stop trying to catch up with their superiors and know their place." He touched - rightly - on the fear of many in the developed world that countries like Malaysia are "stealing" jobs and business. As he put it: "To the yellow peril of yesteryear will be added the brown peril. The

Europeans will be overwhelmed." Mr Mahathir is quite right to condemn this for both its racism and its falsehood. As he said in the speech, world-wide trade and investment do not add up to a zerosum game where one country's gain is another's loss. He also reflected a widespread feeling that trading in the international capital markets is divorced from anything real that is going on in the world. "No real money is involved, only figures," he said.

Although the outspoken Prime Minister went well beyond logic in concluding that currency trading must therefore be banned, his speech did reflect in extreme form some of the new concerns in Southeast Asia. His opponent in the debate also conceded that there were problems with global capitalism. George Soros said: "Financial markets are inherently unstable and international financial markets even

The debate was of course at its stark- more so. International capital flows are notorious for their boom-bust pattern."

nson Hou

However, he concluded, not that governments should try to ban the markets. Malaysian style, but rather that the existence of the global markets demands a different kind of government. Broadly speaking, an open and democratic goverament will be less vulnerable to the deficiencies of financial markets - and he criticised Asian governments for clinging to an autocratic and corrupt politics.

The world's most famous financier therefore ended up reaching the same conclusion as the finance ministers and central bank governors: the next big issue in economic progress is better government. But until that lesson is put into practice. the IMF will find it heavy-going on its plans for capital liberalisation. The experience of the 1930s, when the international financial system broke down, suggests that financial crises do nothing to improve the prospects of open government.

Nor is there anything to suggest that this summer's crisis has prodded South-east Asia on to a higher political plane. The Thai government is in turmoil, while Mr Mahathir's autocratic tendencies seem to have been reinforced. Free markets police bad governments very effectively, but freer markets do not necessarily improve bad governments. These have to want to improve themselves to reap the benefits of economic liberalisation.

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

JOHN WILLCOCK



A huge gang of marauding at 25 North Colonnade which regulators burst upon an unsuspecting Canary Wharf in London's Docklands yesterday to give their new head office the once-over.

The 30-plus party of sightseers from NewRo, the proposed body formed from seven investment regulators, was led by its leader elect, Howard Davies, who chose the new location. Which is pretty brave of Mr Davies, considering he lives in faraway Ealing, on the other side of London.

The visitors swarmed off the Docklands Light Railway sporting little name badges on their lanels - DTI, Bank of England, SIB and so on. Even the transport system got into the spirit of the occasion, flashing on its electronic notice board.

crats will move to the building we move in."

contains more than 363,000 square feet of office space.

The capture of NewRo means that Canary Wharf, only half-let during the recession, is now more than 90 per cent full, although the top 11 floors of the tower are still available. There is also new building, so by next month Canary Wharf will have 1,635,000 square feet of office space under construction.

ed tours were in order to "win hearts and minds" for the location. "A lot of people never been there and have only read about it in the press." Yesterday's was just the first of a large number of visits planned.

"We're hoping the Jubilee Line ` sion to Canary Wharf will open on time More than 2,100 bureau- next September - that's when

The drugs group Scotia is introducing an appetite suppressant for slimmers called "Ileal Brake", a naturally occurring drug which sends signals to your

brain saying your tummy's full so you end up eating 30 per cent. fewer calories per meal. A Swedish company is already using it in yoghurts, as Scotia's chairman, Sir James McKinnon, found to his cost. He was in Stockholm to help One regulator said the guidcelebrate the 10th anniversary of a Scotia subsidiary called

LipidTeknik, and attended a sumptuous feast to that end. He tried one of the yoghurts, not knowing it contained the new drug, liked it and had another one. The result was he felt The regulator source adds: stuffed and couldn't manage a morsel of the feast. There's a moral in there somewhere.

The normally gritty Sir Lawrie

the house-building industry, was in an elegiac mood yesterday as he contemplated his retirement as chairman of Barratt Developments, the group he founded, for the second time.

Never one to hide his light under a bushel, he said his greatest achievement in 44 years in the business was "assisting the explosion of home ownership which has taken place. Assisting the growth from 4 million families to 12 million families (which own their own home]. I have consistently strived to make that possible and the industry has consistently followed."

Despite her famous refusal to live in a Barratt home in Dulwich, South-east London, he also still clearly holds a candle for Margaret Thatcher. He quite understood her desire to live closer in to London, he said,

women. "Men want a new car. but 90 per cent of women want a new house."

Even so, he retains his customary disdain for those who dabble in politics. Archie Norman, Lord Simon, Martin Taylor and the like who are prepared to sup with the Labour. Government get short shrift. "It will all unfold. It will all end in tears." As for himself and polities: "I wouldn't waste my time."

Instead he will keep an eye on his old business as life president and will keep his hands full running three bomes and a yacht in the south of France.

Hardly the country gent, Sir Lawrie insists he is an organiser and you can see his point. Twenty-five acres in Northumberland might be enough for one person, but his 4,500-acre Farndale Estate in the Yorkshire dales sounds like non-executive." The company a full-time job in itself. Famous added that its strategy director.

for its annual display of daffodils, Farndale boasts 22 let farms, 150 acres of woodland and a shoot with pheasants,

grouse, duck and partridge. Sir Lawrie has no time for those who make their pile and quit the country to live in a tax haven. "I pay my taxes in this country and enjoy the British way of life." And long may it be so.

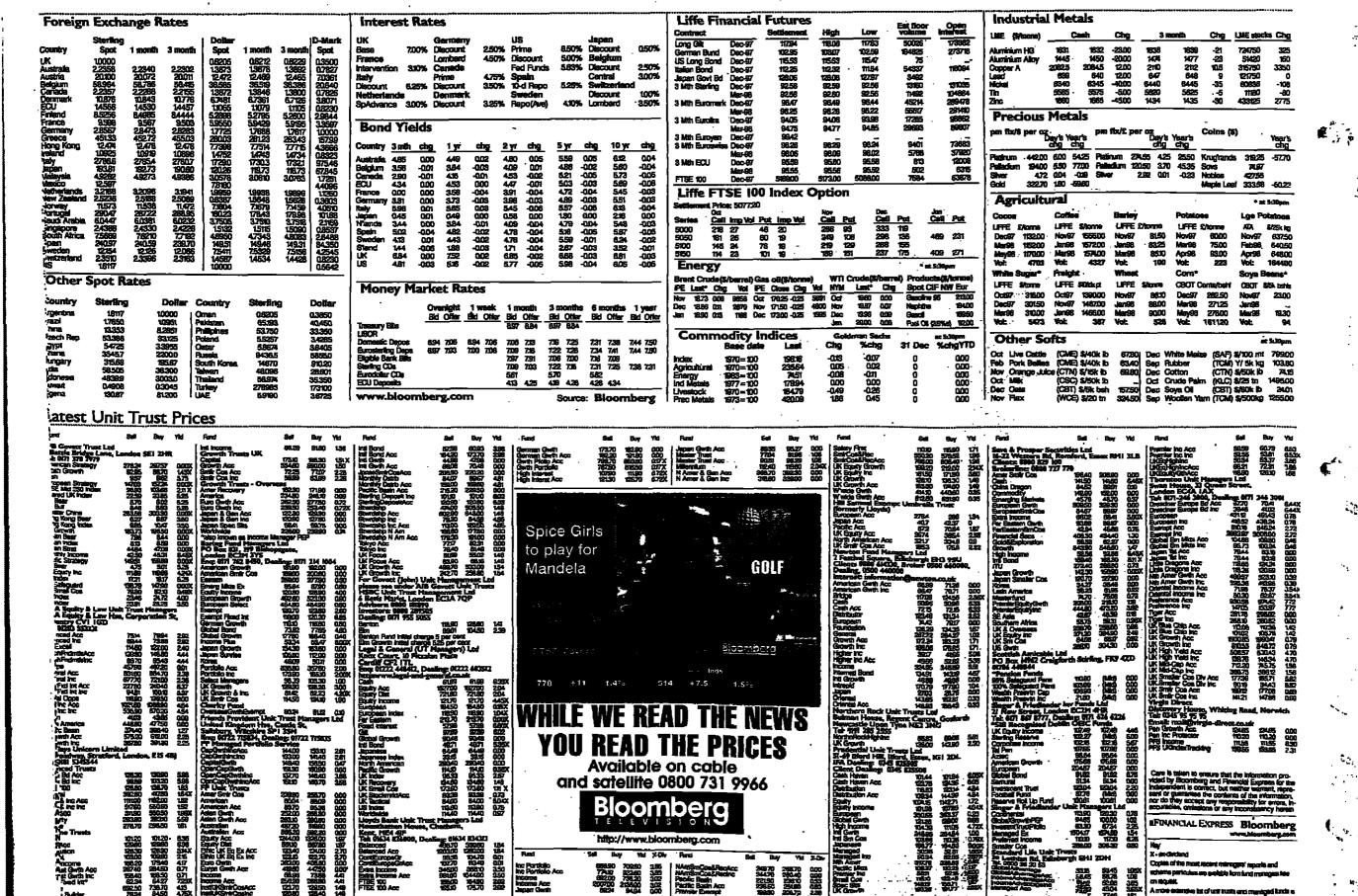
Thames Water has appointed its managing director, Bill Alexander, as chief executive from 1 October. The company's chairman, former United Biscuits boss Sir Robert Clarke, will continue until his retirement in the spring of 1999. Sir Robert said: "There will be a gradual handover of my executive respousibilities over the next 18 months. It is anticipated that my

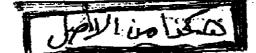
Bill Harper, would leave at the end of the year.

Speaking of which, whatever happened to Mike Hoffman, Thames Water's chief executive until March 1996? Mr Hoffman disappeared into obscurity with his payoff after eight years leading an international diversification strategy for the utility, which it abruptly put into reverse last year.

The former head of Water Services Association of England and Wales left Thames Water with a payoff of around £500,000, plus options worth another £500,000 and Thames Water shares worth £400,000.

It appears Mr Hoffman is still busy with three non-executive directorships. He picked up one at Homby, the train sets maker, in January, and he is a non exec at

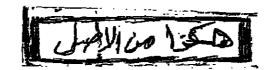




EQUESTRIANISM

Fletcher

25 SEPTEMBER 1997



Johnson Houghton hoping to hit headlines horses they haven't done so well have that because I was born horses they haven't done so well have the so well have t

Stakes on Saturday brings an opportunity for Fulke Johnson Houghton to return to racing's high table. Here the trainer explains to Richard

Edmondson why his career has been in decline since the days when the horses of Sheikh Mohammed and the Aga Khan graced his Oxfordshire stables.

When he counts the outstand- seems to have been around for ing horses he has trained, Fulke so long that it must soon be his Johnson Houghton gets up to 18. He can tell you about Ribocco and Ribero, the St Leg- Jockey Club. In fact, he is only rying the green and red livery.

Henry Cecil yesterday paid rich

better than ever this year," Ce-

cil said. "She looked fantastic

but every time the crunch came

GOODWOOD

2.00 Palaemon

2.30 Sword Arm

3.00 Male-Ana-Mou

3.30 Decorated Hero

tribute to Bosra Sham, who has train - before she won the

been retired because of the re- Guineas she was lame, and

currence of a foot problem. three days before the Champi-

"She was always frustrating but on - but she had a lot of guts.

GOJING: Straight course - Good; Round course - Good to Firm. Panetrometer 31.

STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside (except im 4f - outside).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 7f to 1m 2f.

Right-hand course with sharp bends and gradients.

Course is north of Chichester between A286 and A285. Chichester rail station 4m.

ADMISSION: Richmond Enclosure 1/8, Gordon Enclosure 1/9 (over-65s 1/5), Public Enclosure 1/5 (over-65s 1/5), Pu

● FAVOURITES: 234 wins in 709 races (\$3%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Father Sky (200); Linnelight (400); Elektik (505); The Thruster (505). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Uplifiting (435) has been sent 134 miles by L G Cottrell from

2.00 UCELLO II & UBU III TROPHY HANDICAP (NH JOCKEYS)

(CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m

Minimum weight: 10st True handicap weight: Hillawick Sci 13th, Ginke Sci 18th, Challenger Sci 12th
BETTING: 4-1 Red Rais, 9-2 Palanemen, 5-1 Hillawick, 19-1 Durham, 5-1 Nordamak, Zemaiek, 10-1
Alcombe, 12-1 William, 14-1 Challer Song, Rather Sire, Sandy Floss, 16-7 Ginka, 20-1 oithers
1996: French kry 9 til 4 P Carberry 7-2 ter (F Hurphyl drawn (5) 14 can
FORM GUIDE

Timmy Murphy, recently announced as stable jockey to Peul Nicholls, is on a hardy stayer here in HILLSWICK, who battled back to best Sudest at Beth and not disgraced on
two runs since. Palanemon, the mount of Barrier Fersion, is another at the right and of the
handicap The gelding may need a bit more cut in the ground, but the decent form over
12 furlongs gives the impression he could stay today's longer the Durham is running
consistently He has Dean Gallagher aboard and, white he was not exopping when secord to Lookout at Kempton (Alcombe not disgraced in eighth), the big weight could anchor ham. Wirving hurdler Raid Raja had he first run since April when caught by Duricombe
Hall at Folkestone times weeks ago. He has since timehed second over hurdles in Italy
and should figure under Mark Richards. Two miles could stretch the stamina limitations
of Zemafek and Nordamak, white last month's wirning hurdler Williche may lack the pace
to win over two miles on the level.

Selection: HILLSWICK

2.30 SCATS HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added to stakes

650536 TELEMANNA (27) (J.D. Astrerhem) W. Hagges 9.7 K. Fallon 9. 3303- SALTY JACK (200) (Seits Of The Earth-Four Seasons Racing) V. Sonne 9.6 C. Ruster 1. 32236 KHAFAAQ (14) (D) (Handan Al Makhoum) W.R. Hern 9.6 R. Hölle 11.8

31036 SWORD ARM (6) (A E Opperhenter R Charlton 9.5. T Spraint 5 V
1-809 REPUSE TO LOSE (9) (I C Swith) J Euslace 9.1 R Coderate 8
2800 GRE BEE DREAM (8) (0) (Sarah & Bowman Lanted) A Janis 9.1 S Drowner 7
5-0000 BRANCHEART (26) (W H Porsorta) M Channon 6.8 S Switchers 10

- 11 deciared -BETTING: 11-4 Khatese, 100-30 Refuse To Lose, 5-1 Telements, 11-2 Sword Arm, 7-1 Midnight Shit, 8-1 Attis, 10-1 Gee See Dream, 12-1 Street, 14-1 Braveheart, 16-1 Davidy Regent, 20-1 Swing

1996: Don Boso 8 12 T Cunn 8-1 (M Strute) drawn (9) 'N rain FORM GUIDE.

A draw mext to the whater rail is a plus for Khafasaq, a winner over this trip at Lingfield and then revice turning in creditable runs behind the improved Seria, at Newcastle and Doncaster Khafasaq goes here in a weaker grade off a pound lower mark so holds an otheous chance. Telemania, second with 9st 7h to Guif Shaed over this trip at Sandown, rain well from a bad draw on the same course ('m) next time when sixth to Shawm a winner since. She is enother with a fine chance, but perderence is for REFUSE TO LOSE, who rain so well in second to Treateur Flouch in a massive field over six furlings at Newmarket in April. He tried the severith furlings at Sandown last time and only Mispova bear him with previous scorer Howards in third. With his pace, Refuse To Lose is going to take some holding over the sasker seven-furling trip. Sort ground was against Sword Arm at Newbury last week but a mile still looks his trip. Gee Bea Dream and Intitle look beat and rain well over this trip with Pat Eddery last time when severith to Samera Song, Itimab has been given a chance by the handicapper with a 13th drop since his fifth to Jornocia at Sandown three cutings ago.

Selection: REFUSE TO LOSE

3.00 NFU RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,000 added to

5 STRICESS ZTRI

5 STRIC MEDIA STAR (USA) (36) (C) (D) (8F) (K Abdulet) J Gosdan 4 9 8.... O Paeller 3 V

50055 MALE-ANA-MOU (12) (C) (C) 65 Bught Syndrate) D Ebsorth 4 9 7... Davis O'Nelli 4

5 OSTIZ LADY OF THE LAKE (12) (D 8F) (J Macdonski-Suctiones) J Duniop 3 8 8... G Carlor 2

4 43'057 GEORIGIA VENTURE (13) (D Frank 5 8 Chao) 5 Woods 3 8 3.... R Firench (2) 1

4 43'057 GEORIGIA VENTURE (13) (D Frank 5 8 Chao) 5 Woods 3 8 5.... R Firench (2) 1

4 45'057 GEORIGIA VENTURE (13) (D Frank 5 8 Chao) 5 Woods 3 8 5... R Firench (2) 1

5 4 Node Star 74 Lady (1) The Lake, 4-1 Georgia Venture, 5-1 Male-Ana-Mou

1996. Candio Smile 4 8 13 J Red 7-4 for (M Source) drawn (5) 8 red

1996. Candio Smile 4 8 13 J Red 7-4 for (M Source) drawn (5) 8 red

1998. Cardie Smile 4 8 to J Red 7-4 for (M Stoute) drawn (R) 8 min
FORM GUIDE

Cesarewatch hope MEDIA STAR can be backed with some confidence to beat the younger
thy Lady Of The Lelite - expectably as he would escape a penalty for the Newmarket
thy Lady Of The Lelite - expectably as he would escape a penalty for the Newmarket
the start of the Start roll coming to a hast
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Puce and Benasim from the from: Lady Of The Lake was over the course and distance
Puce and Benasim from the from: Lady Of The Lake was over the course and distance
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Jack 1998: Don Boso 9 12 T Quant 6-1 (M Strute) drawn (S) 14 ran SCHRAR GUIDE

she was a brilliant filly and was She was a super filly, a Christ-

sequent superstud Habitat and lle De Bourbon, the victor in the 1961, aged 20. 1978 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Yet when he calculates the number of beasts he now has in his stables, Johnson Houghton struggles to get past a similar figure. Since the turn of the decade, the Blowbury trainer's a penny down a wishing well, but it is not a destiny which has left him bitter. "That's just the way it goes," is his regular if hardly contemplative assessment.

Fulke Johnson Houghton time to become either a High Court judge or member of the

"She hasn't been easy to

Another on the injured list

we came up against a problem. Thesday was well backed for the was so impressed with last year's love to ride him."

ian and a good friend."

4.00 Dick Turpin (nb) 4.35 Chief Whip

5.05 King Darius

Cecil retires Bosra Sham - 'a Christian and a good friend'

fact that he started training in

When Dick Warden introduced Sheikh Mohammed to racing, Johnson Houghton and John Dunlop were his first trainers, but since then the Maktoums have not been enticed back to the yard that lies by the rolling downland south fortunes have plummeted like of Didcot's belching chimneys and power station.

> The Aga Khan was also a patron of the stables (from where Zayyani, in the 1989 Greenham Stakes, was the Aga's last Johnson-Houghton-trained Group winner before his withdrawal from Britain), but Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani gradually earned the pick of those car-

Tote Festival Handicap at As-

cot on Saturday. He suffered a

serious bone injury on the New-

market gallops yesterday morn-

was a smooth winner of yester-

is Yorkie George, who only on Listowel. Richard Dunwoody in one piece, obviously I would

In Ireland, Dorans Pride

fia, 25-1 Bhwygraen 1996: Tegules 3 8 9 X Darley 4-1 (I Balding) drawn (7) 9 ran FORM GUIDE

day's £50,000 Kerry National at suming Dorans Pride gets there

3.30 CHARLTON HUNT SUPREME STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £33,000 added 7f

The unperialised star filly RED CAMELLIA looks the bet having shown herself as good as ever in France in May. So good at this trip as a juvenile with wint from Yestmak at Sandown and from Fernenda in the Prestige States here, Red Camellia again attempted to make all in the Group One Dubal Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (Im) at Longchamp. She almost pulled it off but the "bip in the act ground just found he rout. Red Camellia returns to her best distance today and, while softer ground would have been preferred, she is going to take some beeting. This is Decorrated Hero's best trip. He gave 7b and a besting to Restructure (levels today) at Newbury in July, he won the Hungerford Stakes on the same course and cert size to be besten a neck by Almushtarak (Ab better from the Hungerford Stakes on the same course and cert part at Doncaster last time. Newsom's is also smart over seven and led to this trip in the Doncaster race – his first run since Royal Ascol. He meets Decorated Hero on the same terms but it could be close between them over the shorter distance and with Newsom's likely to come on a few pounds. On Nettle has lost her ability to win a race of this nature. Blavegreen is outclassed. Selection: RED CAMELLIA

30 BEL CANTO (5) (Shelin Michamaned) J Gogden 9 0.
6-03, DICK TURPIN (USA) (12) (8F) (The Cusen) Lizel Humington 9 0.
6-03, DICK TURPIN (USA) (120) (F) (The Cusen) Lizel Humington 9 0.
04 OUET VERITURE (16) (Micham Al Meltoum) E Duridop 9 0.
60502 TOUGH ACT (12) (Mis R Doel) Mis A Persett 9 0.
60502 BALFOUR LADY (31) (The Buckingham Partnership) J Toler 8 9.
200423 CURZON STREET (22) (8F) (J McGauny) D Elements 8 9.
05 PANORAMA (26) (Lord Hellay) L Curran 8 9.
06 PRADESH (6) (Shelin Michammed) J Gosden 8 9.
— 10 Specimes

ro, 8-1 Partorasse, 10-1 Pradesk, 12-1 Linnelight, Mutabari, 16-1 Belfour Lady 1988: Finnes Wess 8 0 T Quans 5-4 law (P Cole) drawn (2) 9 ran

- 10 Hockard -BETTING: 100-30 Dick Terpin, 4-1 Tough Act, 5-1 Curzon Street, 6-1 Cuiet Venture, 13-2 Rei Care

PORM GUIDE

This is a weak maiden with Quiet Venture in with a fine chance after running much better on his second start at Leizester. A decent older horse, Sacho, won that race, but Quiet Venture is durid the final furiong. A change of rider (John Reid) may help the filly Cuzzon. Street, a beaten taxountte in a Brighton handlicap last time but previously a good second to Shaske ast Sandown, BEL CANTO, the mount of Clivier Pester, looks the pick of

ond to Shaske at Sandown, BEL CANTO, the mount of Divier Paster, looks the pick of John Gosden's pair. Bel Canto tailed to quicken up in Plagatho's maiden over this trip at Sandown last week, but promise was shown at York and he wouldn't need to show that much improvement to take this. Dick Turptin returned from a lengthy absence to finish a promaing third to Silvery over the course and distance 12 days ago. He han well on his only juvenile start and must be issned. Yough Act made his responsance in the Silvery race and would probably have won it but for looking totally unenthusiastic after hitting the toot. The ex-Devid Morley trained Mittabari needs to have been sweetened up by the new trainer to never a part.

4.35 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added to stakes

5.05 ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE NURSERY HANDICAP STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2YO 1m

EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) \$5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f

____W Ryan 4 __R Cocheane 7 ____K Fallon 10

_S Sanders 5 B _R Pireneh (3) 9

ing and will miss the race.

ble-decker rolling downhill out of a yard, it is extremely difficult to get them back. Walwyn thinks his husbandry of these benefactors could have been better and considers he may have been a touch "obstinate". "I've been a bit careless with my owners,"

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sword Arm (Goodwood 2.30) NB: Red Camellis (Goodwood 3.30)

the trainer said yesterday. "I've mislaid them. I'm looking for the secret and trying to discover how I get more owners.

"I think another problem was that my name was too long for the headlines. But I can't

Gold Cup third that he intends

to make himself available for the

horse at Cheltenham in March.

One Man has said his horse

won't run again in the Gold

Cup," Dunwoody said. "Pre-

"I understand the owner of

with it. All I need now is a good horse to get me back. It would help me a lot."

Centre Stalls should really then be a white charger rather than the long-striding bay colt we will witness in Saturday's Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, a race Johnson Houghton won in 1975 and 1976 with Rose Bowl. The four-year-old is around 9-1 for the focus of the weekend meeting and will not be damned by his trainer's words between now and then.

"I think he's got a very good chance," Johnson Houghton said. "We've only got a little bit to make up on Allied Forces and there are question marks about the three-year-olds. So far when they have met the older

horses they haven't done so well. Entrepreneur looked a jolly good horse early on but he's hard to weigh up now, while that race at Doncaster when Revoque beat Bahhare is also difficult to weigh up."

Centre Stalls's most recent effort was a third behind Russian Revival and Hidden Meadow in a Listed event last week. "I was very pleased with him because he needed the race and seven furlongs is too sharp for him," the trainer reported. "It was just what he wanted."

Punters, however, did not want Centre Stalls yesterday. They seemed rather more interested in Allied Forces, whose jockey has a useful record at this meeting. Frankie Dettori's mount is down to 9-2 with Lad-



their prices on Monday.

trepreneur, 9-2 Alabo Fotoss, 5-1 Santario, 10-1 Centre Stalia, 4-1 AF Express, 20-1 IS-jou D'incte, 25-1 Falliniuf Son & Rebecca Sharp; William Hill: 9-4 Entrepreneur & Revoque, 5-1 Alliad Foross, 11-2 Bahhara, 8-1 Centre Stalia, 14-1 AF Express, 45-1 Bipu D'inde, Falliniuf Son & Rebecca Sharp

— 10 declared — BETTING: 3-1 Infatuation, 7-2 Estates, 5-1 Devosid, 6-1 The In-Laws, 7-1 Work, 10-1 Wasp Ranger, 12-1 Pinchinche, 14-1 others

4.10 FRIER WOOD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 1m

– 13 decistred – BETTING: 9-4 Close (ip. 11-4 Fly Bly Miglet, 4-1 After The Rein, 11-2 As-set Manager, 9-1 Free Option, 18-1 Koolen, 29-1 Stedmare, 25-1 others

4.45 NEVISON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,100 added 5f

12000 ROYAL DOME (S) (CD) M Wans 5 13 0 \$ Whitworth 9 Design Corrected Quest (21) (CD) M Charmon 4 9 9... A Eddary (7) 7

brokes, from a starting point of 8-1 when the firm announced

QUEEN ELIZABETH & STAKES (Ascot. Sec. urday): Ludiorokes: 7-4 Revoque, 9-4 En-trepreneur, 9-2 Alfied Forces, 5-1 Bahhare.

shines at Wembley Tina Fletcher repeated last year's victory when she won the Saffron PPC National Grade C Championship during the opening session of the Horse of the Johnson Houghton: careless Year Show at Wembley Arena, this time riding the consistent seven-year-old McCoist.

(she married in April), she was

victory had seemed no more than a remote possibility two weeks ago, when McCoist had a virus, but the horse made a timely recovery. Fletcher, the winner of the Queen Elizabeth II Cup in 1992 and 1993, showed her de-

Last year, as Tina Casson

first on Spartacus and third on

Finchpalm Fujiyama. A repeat

termination when jumping clear to defeat Mark McCourt on sixyear-old Exander by 1.22 sec-Christina Hall and her five-

year-old pony, Murphy's Girl III, made the journey from Aberdeen to compete in just one class: the Woodpecker Junior Newcomers Championship.

The 15-year-old Sconish rider won the title, albeit by a whisker, for both James Wingrave and Laura Stephenson finished a split second behind her in second and third places. Robert Whitaker, the 14-yearold son of John Whitaker, was almost two seconds faster than the winner when having one fence down to finish fourth with Mister Boombastik.

Murphy's Girl, the winning pony, had belied her youth and inexperience under the bright lights of Wembley Arena, where she was ridden steadily over the first two jump-off fences to give her time to get settled before before the rider "let the handbrake off". The response was impressive.

Sarah Marc became the second rider to win a class two years in a row when she rode Bobby's Bracken to victory in the Squibb and Davies National Junior Foxhunter Champion-

Results, Digest, page 31

BASKETBALL

Milan coach

make excuses

At least the Stefanel coach.

Franco Marcelletti, was in no

danger of being pelted with

tomatoes when he returned

with his team to Milan airport

yesterday. But the former Eu-

nopean champions' 65-56 defeat

against London Towers at

Wembley on Tuesday night still

took some explaining to fans,

media and the club's owners.

Marcelletti offered no ex-

refuses to

- Genevieve Murphy

PONTEFRACT

2.40 Leofric 3.10 Nashki 3.40 INFATUA-TION (nap) 4.10 Close Up 4.45 Camionneur 5.15 Bubble Wings

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Inside

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

© Lett-hand, undustring course.

© Course is 'm NW of lown on ASSB. Pontefact. (Monkfull) station 'm; 'Barshell' station adjoins course. ADMISSNON: Club £12; Paddock £5; Shver Ring £3.50. CAR PARK: Third Ring, car with four couparits, £6 plus £2 at turnsilies; remainer free.

© LEADING TRAINERS: Nex J Remades — 87 winners from 208 nuners gives a success ratio of 17.9%; H Ceell 16 from 40 (40%); J L Eyre 15 from 43 (10.5%); J Dunidop ¼ from 51 (27.5%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 25 white from 220 rides gives a success ratio of '11.9%; J Cortaine 19 from 120 (10.5%); J Carroll 14 from 136 (10.3%); J Westver 12 from 120 (10%).

© FAYOURITES: 216 with in 555 races (38.1%).

FRST TIME: No Shame (viscord), Chocolate (3.00); Bataleur (4.45).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Industrion (3.40) has been sent 240.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Infatustion (340) has been sent 240 miles by Lady Herries from Angmering Park, West Susses: Chocolete (330), Eshtland (340) & Close Up (410) sent 236 miles by J Duntoo from Arundel, West Sut

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SETTING: 11-4 Prosept Delivery, 7-2 Caronize, 9-2 Captain Logan, 6-1 Ny Last Love, 8-1 Leotric, 10-1 Sorrider, Total Tropix, 12-1 others
3.10 PORTERS LODGE NURSERY HANDI- CAP (CLASS D) £4,550 2YO filles 1m
1 5822 CHOCOLATE (8) J Dunitop 9 7
2 3553 GOOD CATCH (8) P R Webber 9 5 Fortune 2
3 435 MASKHI (16) M Johnston 9 3
4 328263 SUMMER DEAL (USA) (9) P Cole 9 3
5 434 CAMPARI (20) M Janes 90 Wester 4
6 05440 MISS MAIN STREET (21) JJ Quim 83 J Carroll 9
7 DOSSOD NO SHAME (7) J G Smyth-Osbourne 8 2 G Bardwell 5 V
5 5501 MOONLIGHT PLT (8) J FitzGerald 8 0 (5ed
9 40000 BROOKHOUSE LADY (12) R Hollinshead 7 12 N Cardisla 10
10 800 10A LUPINO (40) B HBs 7 10P Feepey (3) 6
11 COOSS DANCING EM (50) T Sesierby 7 10
- 11 declared -
Minimum: 7st 10th. True h'cop weights: Ide Lupino 7st 4th, Dencing Em 7st \$10.
BETTING: 3-1 Nasight, 7-2 Chocolate, 5-1 Moonlight Fig. 7-1 Summer
DELINE OF Comment to a Court Court light trains 44-4 effects

esi, 8-1 Caropari, 10-1 Good Cately, ide Lupino, 14-1 others 3.40 DALBY SCREW-DRIVER RATED HAND-ICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 1 m 2f 48000 PREMER BAY (12) (D) P Herris 39 7 ______ D Holland 10 B -23TH ESHTTAAL (ESA) (42) (D) J Dunkop 39 6 _____ K Derley 9 B 20040 WASP RANGER (USA) (35) P Cole 39 5 ______ T Quinn 7

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PERTH

HYPERION 2.15 Forever Grey 2.50 Paldost 3.20 Pride Of Kashmir 3.50 Battery Fired 4.20 Bourdonner 4.55 Baba Au Rhum 5.25 Just Jake

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Right-hand course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd. ♠ Right-hand course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd.
♠ Course is in Scone Palace Pk, 4m N of town on ASA. ADMISSION: Members 212; Reternals 57 (CAPS & disabled 24); Course 22 CAR PARIC: 25 for pione area, netuding up to 4 actus, rest tree.
♠ LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley — 23 wins from 57 runners gives success ratio of 40.4%; M Hammond 25 from 101 (22.5%).
♠ LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 25 wins from 76 rides gives a success ratio of 32.5%; A Dobblin 19 from 81 (23.5%).
♠ FAVOLINTIES: 40 wins in 338 recase (4.14%).
BLINKERED FIRST TRIVE: Young Wolf (2.15).
WINKERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONGLINTANCES RUNNERS: Pricing Of Keetonic 620 & Lincules.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Pride Of Keshmir (\$20) & Jaquies Glen (\$25) sent 429 miles by P Hobbs from Bilbrook,Someriet.

2.15 PRESS AND JOURNAL MAIDEN HUR-
2-15 DLE (CLASS E) £3.500 2m 4f 110vds
1 4P20-2 JACK DORTY 236 Mrs S Bradburne 5 11 5
2 20) RADICAL REPORM (623) N Mason 8 tl 5
3 340-50 YOUNG WOLF (83) D Eddy 9 11 5 A Thornton \
4 00-0 ALARECO (PR) (13) (Williams 4 11 S A P McCor
5 252-4 RET FRENT (5) C Parker 4 11 3
6 Q. ALLFORUS (223) Was D Thomson 5 Ti 0
7 2PP21- FOREVER GREY (145) J.H. Johnson 5 11 0 A Magain
B 0- YEE(NOSO (183) Mrs D Thomson 5 11 0
-8 declared -
BETTING: 9-4 Ret Frem, 5-2 Alerico, 7-2 Fotover Grey, 7-1 Jack Dory 9-1 Young Wolf, 10-1 Radical Reform, 25-1 Allicrus, 33-1 Yeenoso
[2-] PERGENT MORE, 10-1 PRESENT RESULTER, 22-1 PRESENTS, 33-1 PRESIDENT

2.50 TRAVAIL GROUP NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 3YO 2m 110yds

- 6 deciseed -BETTING: 7-4 Paidost, 11-4 Lyones, 3-1 Real Fire, 8-1 Broadgate Five,

3	.50	ESPRIT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2m
] £5,000 added 2m
		KNOW-NO-NO (26) (CD) M Hammood 6 12 0 R Gentity
		STRONG VIEWS (180) (CD) G A Herler 10 11 5 A Thorston
3 4		AUSURN BOY (2) (D) (BF) I Williams 10 to 8 A P McCoy
4	11-102	TEELUCTN'AITCH (F10) (CD) J Golde 5 to 8 S Taylor (5)
5	-24F12	BATTERY FIRED (8) N Wason 6 to 6
6	多包	FREEEL KING (24) (C) (O) M Barnes 7 to 1
		- 6 deciared -
DET	TIME:	(1.4 Technologistois 9.1 Yearn No. No. 2.2 Bettern Cloud E.1

Auburn Boy, 11-2 Rebel King, 16-1 Strong Views 4.20 HIGHLAND SPRING HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £4,000 3m 110yds TITE! HIT THE CANVAS (F446) (C) (BP) MIS M Re-

2 21-222 BOURDONNER (36) (CD) (BF) M Hammon 3 1/RU4- GYMCRAK CYFANO (F89) N Chembersin B 4 /SBFP- JUBRASI (USA) (F33) (C) J Docds 11 f0 0... — 4 declared — Markeum weight: 10st Time handkeyn weight: Jubran 9st 1 BETTING: 5-4 Boardomes, 2-1 Hit The Cames, 4-1 G

4.55 MURRAYSHALL HOTEL CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 1 FPS1 BABA AU RHUM (12) (D) | Williams 5 11 1...
2 IRSS-1 AMABRANCH (12) (D) J. Jufferson 5 10 2....
3 306-3 COTTSTOWN BOY (27) Min S Stadburns 6 10
4 4200- TOM BROOTE (146) (D) J. H. Johnson 7 10 1...
5 305-45 ON GOLDEN FOND (20) N Misson 7 10 5...
- 5 declared.

5.25 ALBERT BARTLETT & SON (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2 DAMZA N Mason 5 11 4 2- LITTLE DUKE (180) Mrs S Brachume 5 ft 4. 2/ NET TIES COMPONENTS (558) Mrs M Rove AMORRIC M Technist 4 11 2... 0- INNOVATE (123) Miss I. Russell 5 to 13...... 0- BRED FOR PLEASURE (152) W Curringher JACULES GLEN PHONE 4 TO 11

JOWOODY (159) No D Thomson 4 JOWOODY (159) No D Thomson 4 MARSON, P Montaith 4 10 11 SELYMORE P Montaith 4 10 11 TENGREE GIRL F Murisgh 4 10 11 - 15 declared -- 15 declared -BETTRIC: 7-2 Mr Teas Consponents, 4-1 What Becomes, 9-2 Jacquies Gho, 6-1 Juni Jako, 12-1 Little Dotos, Amoebic, 18-1 Tenerifis Girl, 25 others

110700	: wisicenein oneist 10 62-
maley 6 12 0 P Niven	cuses after the most stunning re-
d 5 11 6	sult so far in European Cup
Nr C Bonner (3)	Group E. He said: "We were
A Magaire	soft on defence, soft on offence.
11 D .	We made mistakes, they pun-
Зупрстак Сурано,	ished us. They pursued us all
-	game. If you score only 56
NOWICE	points you won't beat anyone."
NOVICE	Stefanel Milan have won
	eight European titles, including
A P McCoyE Callaghen (3)	three Super Leagues, but Mar-
10 10N. Foster	celletti denied his players took
	victory for granted.
a Au Rhum, 20-1	Even more so now. Towers'
- MU (MENER), 20-1	coach, Kevin Cadle, rightly
	identified his America
N NH FLAT	identified his American pair
≧m 110 yds _Mr C Booner (3)	Danny Lewis and James Hamil-
THE C ROOTEL (2)	too as the dominant influences.
le Bradkerna (7)	Cadle said: "They played the
stry 5 ft 4	way Americans in Europe are
C McComseck (?)	supposed to play. Danny ran the
E Callagram (3) R McGaath (5)	game and pushed at them every
Mr B R Hamilton	second he was on the floor."
3Miss P RobsonN Honocks (7)	Yet Cadle had to bench
m 4 10 11	Lewis within minutes of the start
Mr S Dorack (7) DJ Kavanagh (5)	after the player earned a tech-
D Partner (3)	nical foul for a comment to the
	referee then showed his frus-
	: tration by shoving an opponent.
	 Towers are away to Beobank

Yet Cadle had to bench, ewis within minutes of the start fter the player earned a techical foul for a comment to the eferee then showed his frusration by shoving an opponent. Towers are away to Beobank Belgrade next Tuesday. - Richard Taylor

RACING RESULTS

GOODWOOD GUODEVECOD

2.00: 1. SIENA (Candy Morris) 33-1; 2.
Constant Attention 100-30; 3. Royal
Ground 5-2 fav. 12 ran. 14. shy-hd. (M Chanhan Upper Lamboum) Tota: 656-50. \$180.
150. D.F.: \$131.50 CSF: \$128.68. Trio:
\$25.0 PF: \$131.50 CSF: \$136.60 PF: \$13 EB:240 NM POSIGN VERSUS 2.30: 1. MILTAWWAJ (J Reid) 10-11 fav. 2. Achilles 10-1: 3. Lear Spear 10-1, 8 ren. 24, 31-1 (Sared bin Surock Newmarket) Total TROD, 1710 E220, E220 DF: 1500 CSF:

3.00: 1. THIS HIS THWAY (K Dentry) 14-1: 2. Tiben 9-1: 3. Mindama Jones 19-1: 8 Fant 1-8 far Control Committee (481) 1/4. (B Meeten, Lombourn). Tota: 22850: 1740. (180, 1250. DF: 18010. CSF: 17158.

3.30: 1. DANISH RHAPSODY (Paul Eddery) 3-1; 2. Proper Blue 4-1; 3. Sandalone 11-8 fax. 5 ran. 14. sh hd. (Lacky Hentes, Littlehampton), Totar 12:70; 2:50, 2:50, 2:50. OF: \$155.3

tenamponi, Ioser (220; 2504 ct.ac. ct.)
6590 CSF: CR53
4.00: 1. BEAU VENTURE (7 Sprains) 9-1;
2. Flying Harrold 20-1; 3. Lusy in The Sky
50-1; 4. Songethest 9-1; 23 rest. 7-1 fav
Frencily Brane, V. nt. (8 Palling, Cowtratige)
Total CT050; (2260 E420, CT055, GS80 DF;
CT0830 CSF: CT0380, Increst: E777150,
Tao: Not wort; E2248-70 canned formand to
Portestrect 445 today,
4.36: 1. HARLEGUEN WALK (J Culm)
5-1; 2. Dameling Lawyer 10-1; 3. Calocharge
Blue 33-1; 4. Lord Obseron 7-1 20 ren. 11-4
lay Moutes (2nt) 11/6, 1/6 (R O'Sulven, Whicombe). Total: C780; \$170, C210, C380.

22.50. DF: \$45.10. CSF: 281.88. Tricast: \$2.398.04. Thic: CQ0.800; \$250.46 carried forward to Ponteiract 445 today. NRs: Bepaired, Oneloight With You.

5.06: 1. ZBETH (P Doe) 25-1; 2. Seektie Swing 10-1; 3. Prince Aliex 4-1. 9 ran.

3-1 [i fav Pennys From Heaven (8th), Royal Castle (4th) 1/4, Nr. (5 Dow. Epoam). Totas: \$2140; \$23.20. \$230. \$130. DF: \$250. CSF: \$2180. Tricast: \$102843. Thic: \$20380.

5.36: 1. MAC DATES (A DaM 18-1: 9

5.35: 1, MAC OATES (A Daly) 18-1: 2. Rout 14-1; 3. Milmosa 10-1; 4. Ring The Chief 4-1 it iss. 22 ran. 4-1 it tay Step Cn Dages 1%, 1% (P Hedger), Total 23160; 5480, 5360, 6440, 5150, DF: 517130, CSF: 521267, Treast, 5223754. This: not won, 5144505 carried forward to Pontahact 445

250: 1, PURE NOSE, 177 (D-Holland) 14-1; 2. Freedom Custel 7-4 far; 3. Revertila 18-1 9 ran. 1½, ½. (B. Hills, Lambourn). Totac 22050: 551, 5170, 6230. DF: 53470. CSF: 53658. Thio: 51450. 3.20: 1. BURNT YATES (S. Senders) 10-1;

en Dice 6-4 tay; 3. Confirmation 4-1. 4 ren. 1½, 3. (A Stewart, Newmarket). Tota: £3.20.

ast £400.97. Tho: £80.20. Place 6: £306.68. Place 5: £18170.

PERTH

2.40: 1. PENTLANDS FLYER (A Magues)

en Dice 6-4 fay; 3. Confirmation 4-1 4 ren.
19, 3. (A Stevent, Newmarker). Tote: \$2.20
DP: \$2.50. CSP: \$5.00
4.55: 1. SWAN AT WHALLEY (R
Cochrane) 13-2; 2. Caustion 8-1; 3. Lady
Sharff 8-1. 13 ran. 4-1 fay That Man Again.
2. Xalpate 13-2; 3. Eurobrist 5-1.5 ran. 1/h.

hd, 1. (Ft Fahey, Matton). Totar: £7.20; £2.30. 15. (Mrs M Fleveley). Totar: £1.30; £1.10, £1.80. £2.20, £3.70. DF: £58.00. CSF: £58.95. The-3.40: 1. CHEATER (Mr C Borner) 5-1; 2. Michresc 7-2; 3. Vintage Talktinger 5-4 fev. 5 ran. 3, 19 (J Howard Johnson). Tota: \$4.90; £180, £170. DF: £720. CSF: £7741 4.10: 1. JOHNS THE BOY (Richard Guest) 9-4: 2. Walls Court 8-1; 3. Rusty Blade 2-1 lav. 5 ran. 2, /h. (N. Mason). Tola: £2.70; £180, £2.30. DF: £14.00. CSF:

4.45: 1. TERDAD (P Niven) 4-11 tav; 2. Sandahar 4-1; 3. Sounds Devious 40-1 7 ran. 6 21/4 (Mrs M Reveloy) Toba: £130; £130; Piecepot: £4840, Quadrat: £1800 Place 8: £3495. Place 5: £2707

	THE INDE	€ PENI	DENT
.]	RACING	SERV	ICES
	UOJ I	ZO TARIES	十 RESECTS
	GOODWOOD	971	981
1	PONTEFRACT	972	982
1	PERTH	973	983
	ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970		
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Furyk drives full swing on rookies' road

Of the four Americans making their debut in this week's Ryder Cup, one is known mainly for his looping swing. Jim Furyk's action may not beautiful, but it is very effective and, being one of the best putters on the US Tour, he could be a major player. Andy Farrell has been watching his preparation in Valderrama.

"Rookies?" said Colin Montcomerie. "You can't really call them rookies, can you?" Of the four men representing the United States for the first time in the Ryder Cup, two are major champions this season and another is 41 years old.

Scott Hoch, who will gladly talk to you at length about how he should have been picked for the US team before now, finalround. This year Tiger Woods claimed a Green Jacket at the US Masters in the most emphatic way possible, while at Royal Troon in July Justin Leonard produced a performance of maturity beyond his vears to lift the Open's claret jug. But what of Jim Furyk?

If you know anything about Furyk, it will be concerning his golf swing. This is not a thing of beauty. Comparison for a European audience will be made with the eccentric action of Eamonn Darcy. For graphic visualisation, you need only turn to the words of David Feherty, who said Furyk's swing was "like an octopus in a phone booth". Even Furyk was surprised

quite how much a loop he posplayed in slow motion for the first time. Not that the 27year-old graduate of the University of Arizona cares too much what is said. You can

years on the US Tour and not possess the mental fortitude to he concerned about aesthetics. It is not what it looks like, but how it works. Furyk's swing works rather well.

Although without a victory this year in America. Furvk is showing distinct signs of consolidating his progress by turning into a highly consistent performer in the major championships. He was fifth at the US Open, fourth at Troon and sixth at the USPGA. This was part of a sequence of nine top-10 finishes in 10 events.

"What would be a good week for me is to do what Tim Furyk has done in '97," he said. "You can out too much pressure on yourself to try and play better than you can. I want to contribute to the team is what I have been doing all year."

That includes being one of the best putters on the US tour, up there with his teammate Brad Faxon and Loren Roberts. This could make ly managed to qualify this time Furyk a significant player in the plans of his captain, Tom Kite.

He was taught to putt crosshanded by his father, Mike, a former rep for an equipment company, who has been Furyk's only teacher. "He's my eyes," Furyk said of his father's role in his coaching. Furyk partnered Phil Mick-

elson and Tom Lehman on the first two days of practice and has been surprised at how much Kite has consulted his players over such matters. "Even with his captain's picks, he wanted to know hop. When I said that my zero Ryder Cups was not looking good against his seven, and that I'd be happy with whatever he sure to be reminded of his faildecided, he said that was not the ure to assist David Gilford when answer he was looking for and they were defeated 7 and 6 by I'm sure he has been staying up late working on his pairings."

The impression, confirmed by those who cover the American circuit, is of a nice guy who have a different point of view, hardly win twice in the last two prefers to keep a low profile.

Someone to watch over: Nick Faldo (left) takes an unfamiliarly paternal approach to the progress of Ryder Cup rookie Lee Westwood yesterday

Pallister in the clear a

referee

1 backs down

Faldo now the overseer as he abandons one-eyed approach

From the sound of things Nick Faldo interprets senior status as an opportunity to prove that he is not without consideration for others. "If I'm paired with a rookie it will be my responsibility to shield him from the bullets." he said yesterday.

Faldo's resilience is magnificently illustrated by six victories in major championships and a our opinion. I was caught on the record of 11 Ryder Cup appearances, but benevolence does not fit with his reputation.

On these occasions Faldo is O'Meara in 1991 at Kiawah Island. Attaching no blame to himself. Faldo insists that it was an error in selection. Gilford may do when proceedings at Kiawah crop up in conversation. One of the advantages Faldo still possesses over most of his rivals in strokeplay is con-

teamplay means to the other

fellow. Single-mindedness is a strength but in the context of a Ryder Cup it can be a weakness. Consequently, Faldo's assertion that Europe's debutants are guaranteed the benefit of his experience and wisdom.

caused a raising of eyebrows. "Let's wait and see," was once cynical observation. paternal figure is, to say the least, an interesting development, one that works greatly to Europe's advantage. "It will be important

to take the pressure off the

them free. That was the way I felt when I was starting and I think that's what we've seen over centration. Unfortunately, this the years. We've got to let them does not always allow for what freewheel it."

> It was carry . in the day and Faldo was sitting Montgomerie, who is younger by five years but no stranger to the Ryder Cup experience. "It's

difficult to de-

Ryder Cup," he said, "but we're all more light-hearted today than we'll be on Friday. It's important to try and relax." The impression you often get younger guys," he said, "just let

them play and be themselves or foreign to Montgomerie as be better than themselves. Set concern for others has been for Faido. When things are going well the Scot has the sunniest disposition imaginable but misfortune can seriously alter his

be seen whether Faido can shrug aloneside Colin KEN IONES off the disappointments of a pretty bleak AT THE season, especially when he RYDER CUP has had a putter.

later in the day ing one of Europe's rookies, Lee Westwood, as though eager to put paternalism into practice.

Typically, you may think, the Ryder Cup that Faldo recalls with least affection was at The is that a calm state of mind is as

rolled over for the first time in 28 years. Yet to fashion the swing that would bring a flood of majors, Faldo was only selected for two matches and failed to score a point. "It was a pretty miserable time for me," he said. "I wasn't playing well and didn't really feel a part of things. I was told that I shouldn't be out. there and to give someone else a chance. But if that was the low

been a lot of highs. All the matches have been memorable." The confidence exuded by Faldo and Montgomerie insupporters who are presently swarming all over Valderrama-And it is given impetus by Severiano Ballesteros's recurring stubbonness whenever the idea

of a US victory is put to him.

point, fortunately there have

According to Faldo and Montgomerie, the captain is doing fine. "Seve's intensity in trying to beat the Americans is second to none and it's showing," Montgomerie add. d.

Faldo weighed in with an assessment of Ballesteros as compared with the two past captains, Tony Jacklin and Bernard Gallacher. "As the week goes on Seve is sure to get tougher," he said. "He's got pairings and orders to put in and that's when the intensity of the job really comes into it. But, we are all there and we are going to help. I don't think he where players feel uncomfort-

Faido's introspection on the golf course is famous but, for the time being at least, he actually sounds like a team player.

Woodward trims squad to current specifications

one that is still held against Fal-

Clive Woodward has yet to settle on the style of play he will launch on the All Blacks, the Springboks and the Wallabies this autumn. But, as Chris Hewett reveals, England's new rugby union coach has identified areas of concern.

This time last week, England's interim Test squad resembled merically, if not visually. Yesterday, Clive Woodward eased his way through his first training session as national coach by engaging in a meeting of minds with the streamlined version; 23 players, largely drawn from this summer's Lions contingent, who will form the backbone of the imminent three-pronged assault on the southern hemisphere powerbrokers, beginning with Australia at Twickenham on 15 November.

the cast list of Ben Hur - nuhis cupboard shelves are stacked with goods, others are bare.

Woodward agreed that some sections of the initial 77-strong party had been hacked back more brutally than others. Only two props were invited to the Bisham Abbey get-together - the England incumbents, Graham Rowntree and Jason Leonard while wings specialists were equally thin on the ground, just John Bentley and Adedayo Adebayo being there. The coach clearly believes that if some of

"I suppose you could say that those two areas are of the most immediate interest in terms of strength in depth," he tinker with the squad weekly, on the basis of current form. "On this occasion, I simply imagined that England were playing the All Blacks this weekend and chose those I could realistically see taking the field against them. It will change as time We have three more mid-

week sessions together before the Wallaby match, which isn't many. I've made it clear to every player here that now is not the time for celebration. Form is everything. Next week, we

said, confirming his intention to could have more than 23 players here; we could have less." One of the few certainties to emerge in these early days of Woodward's stewardship is that Rob Smith, the Wasps coach,

will join Richard Hill, of Gloucester, in handling Eng-land's A side, while London's Phil Keith-Roach, who has extensive experience at divisional level, will contribute as a scrummaging advisor. Woodward has also pulled in Jim Blair, the highly regarded fitness guru from New Zealand, "for as long as we can afford him."

But the new regime has yet to solve one very old coaching conundrum: namely, how to persuade the Rugby Football Union that Dave Alred should play an integral role in bigmatch preparation. Alred, without question the most successful kicking coach in world rugby, remains a frustrated outsider, despite his unmestioned achievements with Neil Jenkins and England's own Tim Stimpson on the Lions tour. "We need a specialist but it's not yet sorted," Woodward admitted.

"Ryder Cup news. Can I have the whole in one?"

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Ryder Cup, so you can always find the latest scores and reports without playing around



TENNIS: GRAND SLAM CUP

Becker leaves his options open as he prepares for a long goodbye

Boris Becker, given a wild card for the \$6m Compag Grand Slam Cup, was beaten in the first round by Sweden's jonas Bjorkman in Munich yesterday. ohn Roberts looks at what the future holds for the semi-retired three-times Wimbledon champion.

The organisers were leaving their options open. "Auf Wiedersehen, Boris Becker," declared the announcer in the Olympic Hall as Germany's tennis icon packed his bag. waved and departed from the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Goodbye, until the next time.

Becker took exception to the 'goodbye" bit. "Unfortunately, the speaker in the hall announced that," he said. "I don't know how he got that information. He didn't get it from me. I cannot definitely say that I won't play here any more." Triumphant here last year.

eliminated by Sweden's Jonas

Bjorkman, 6-3, 6-2, in the opening round yesterday after being ushered into the event with a wild card, the idol does not intend to be idle - except when the Grand Slam championships are played. "Obviously, I won't play Grand Siams anymore, and I won't play a full schedule. Becker said.

Since qualification for the Munich dollarfest is decided on results in the four major championships, how can he expect to be considered for a similar exemption next year?

"I don't expect it," Becker responded. "It has to be decided by the Grand Slam chairmen and the company of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. It really depends on my form. If I'm able to produce the sort of tennis which gives me a chance to play well, and to win those kind of tournaments, then I will play."

Becker says he is motivated to continue as a part-time player, with the Davis Cup a priority, until replacements emerge to fill the gap in German tennis left by himself and Michael Stich. That is like Britain waiting for another Fred Perry.

Valedictions were writtenduring Wimbledon in July, after Becker confided his decision to retire from major championships to Pete Sampras over the Centre Court net after losing to the world No 1 in the quarter-finals.

The death of his manager, Axel Meyer-Wolden, the founder and chairman of the Grand Slam Cup, prevented Becker from competing in the US Open last month. Although adamant that he is no longer prepared to put in the effort demanded of Grand Slams, speculation regarding a change of heart is bound to increase ahead of Wimbledon. If fit and in reasonable form, would he be

able to resist the temptation? "You know," he said, "we are in September right now. I can speak calmly about Wimbledon of next year. By the time the tournament comes around, I'm probably going to be very nervous and very tempted to play. But I hope I'm wise enough and smart enough to bave people holding me back."

GUARTER-PRIAL LINE-UP (floday): M
Rice (Chie) v P Retiar (Aud. C Piolina (P) v
P Rorda (C Rep.) Boonerone G Reservice
(GB) v Y Kaleinisov (Flus). P Sampras (LIS)
v J Ejodrama (Swa).

Winter sports feeling the pinch

As Britain's competitors reach the critical preparation period for this February's Winter Olympics, they have yet to receive a penny

of promised National Lottery funding. Mike Rowbottom found a mood of increasing anger at yesterday's annual meeting of the **British Olympic**

Association.

Britain's chances of significant success at the Winter Olympics starting in Japan on 5 February next year are receding fast in the absence of financial assistance.

Craig Reedie, chairman of the BOA, launched a strong attack yesterday on the National Lottery distribution process, which he described as "unnecessarily bureaucratic and cumbersome".

He added: "Financial support that is currently in a logiam has to be unlocked if British teams are to have a chance of success at the winter Olympics."

Following the outcry over the relatively poor British performance at the Atlanta Olympics, which yielded just one gold medal, the launch of the Lottery's World Class Performance programme in November held out the hope of substantial assistance for competitors in future events.

But, nearly a year on. only a handful of sports have received Lottery money none of them winter sports.

The delay threatens to undermine the prospects of those British sports which

have the best chance of earning medals in Nagano - bobsleigh, speed skating and curling. The British Paralympic team in Nagano is also without funding.

"Joe Public pays his one pound on Wednesdays and Saturdays and thinks he is helping British sport," Paul Pruszinski, a director of the British Bobsleigh Association, said. "But where is all this money? Sitting in some bank account making an enormous amount of interest for someone while our governing bodies are cashstrapped. What is going on?"

The British bobsleigh team, who finished fourth in last year's World Championships, will compete in Calgary on 4 November in the first of this season's World Cup events. The competition determines seedings for the Games and is vital to any chance of success.

Under the current system of Lottery distribution, application has to be made to the recently instituted UK Sports Council, but once their criteria have been satisfied, the actual payment to sports has to be administered by each of the

four home sports councils. Reedie who has been part of the consultation process for the Government's forthcoming White Paper, The People's Lottery, said: "We have to change the rules of distribution, and we have to change them quickly, because we simply cannot go on

like this in the long term." He also criticised the sports councils for overstepping their powers. "Their role is to support, not to have pretensions of leading British sport forward," he said. "This is the issue which we would like the Govern-

ment to take on board."

كذا من الاص



Pallister in the clear as referee backs down

Manchester United have succeeded in overturning an official's decision to show a red card to one of their players last weekend. Tommy Staniforth reveals all.

Gary Palfister was yesterday cleared of the first red card of his Manchester United career after the Old Trafford club's Paul Durkin, paid off.

The England defender faced dismissed after a clash with the matter." Bolton striker, Nathan Blake, in Saturday's game at the Reebok Stadium.

Durkin, who said initially video of the incident, relented after watching the pictures and ruled that Pallister should only "adopting an aggressive atti-

lister's leg after the ball had gone and the pair squared up to each other twice. But Pallis-Blake struck him and was disgusted when Durkin produced the red card, the first time he had been sent off in his eight years at Old Trafford.

sion, sent a video of the incident and should not have sent Pallister off.

Tony Yeboah yesterday ended his troubled time at Leeds move to the Bundesliga club, Hamburg.

solved and Yeboah, 31, has ties. signed a two-year contract at Hamburg, despite late interest celebrate his 60th birthday next g the pino from the Turkish side Trabzon- month by playing for a local amspor and Lecce of Italy.

er sports

former midfielder, John Collins, play for the Moss Side-based who left Parkhead for Monaco side Moss Amateurs against last year under the Bosman rul- Tintwistle Villa on his birthday, ing on a free transfer.

Celtic's managing director, not apply and that his club a reception last year.

should have earned a fee for the Scotland midfielder.

However, yesterday Celtic were told that Fifa, world football's governing body, has rejected their appeal for payment and that their case was not helped by an alleged error by the Scottish Football Associa-

In a statement, the club said: "We are surprised and disappointed the appeal to Fifa in this case has been rejected. public lobbying of the referee, The rejection is based on the apparent late arrival of the appeal fee from the SFA. We are ina three-match ban after he was vestigating this key aspect of the

Uefa's decision to ban the Belgian club, Anderlecht, from European competition for a season over alleged bribes paid that he did not need to study a to referees is illegal and could easily be overturned, a leading Belgian lawyer said yesterday.

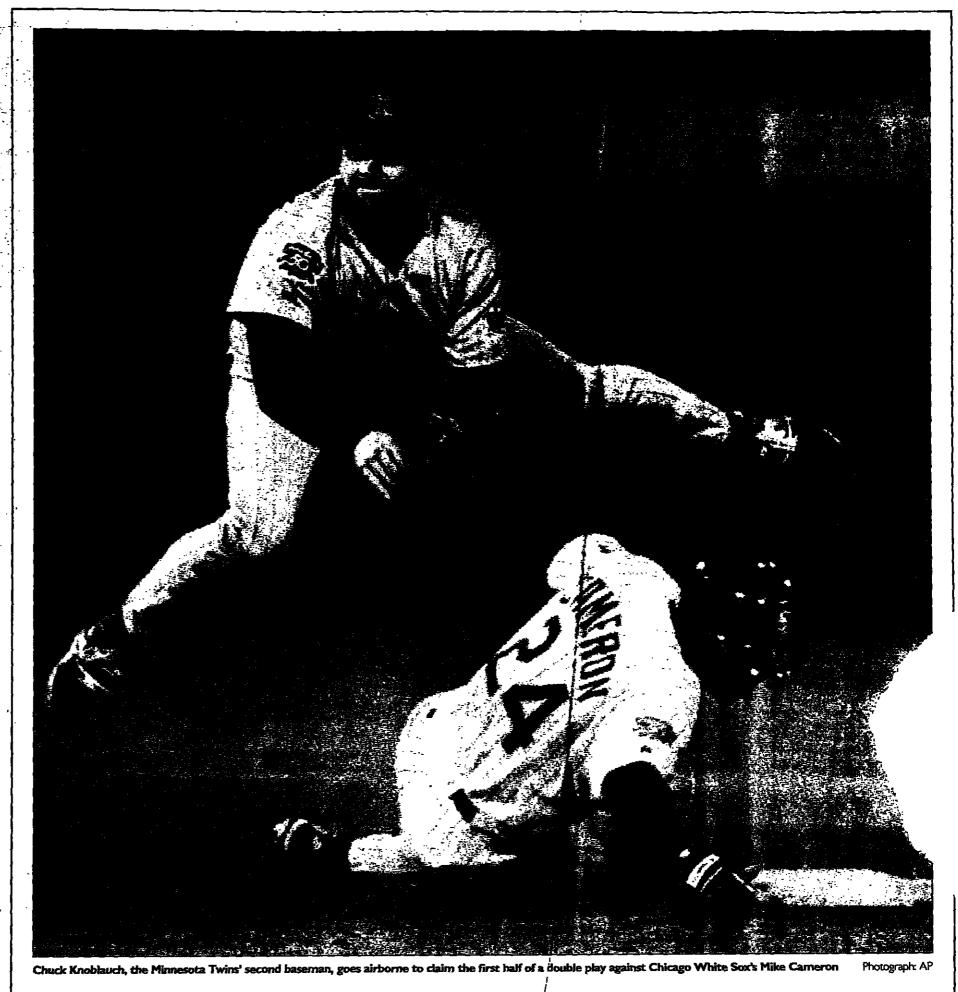
This sanction... is so illegal, have had a yellow card for a decision so badly patched together that it only depends on Anderiecht to blow up the sanc-Blake caught the back of Pal-tion. Uefa [European football's governing body] does not apply its own rules," Luc Misson, the lawyer who acted for Jeanter kept his arms by his side as Marc Bosman, the transfer system rebel, in the European Court of Justice, said.

The Brussels club have admitted paying a "loan" of about £20,000 to the Spanish referee, The United manager Alex Guruceta Muro, who was in Ferguson, enraged by the deci- charge of a 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final tie against Nottingto the Football Association. ham Forest. Anderlecht will But before the tape arrived at not challenge the one-year ban, Lancaster Gate, Durkin decid- though. The club's lawyer, ed that he had made a mistake Daniel Spretels, said: "At the moment there is no question of taking Uefa to court."

Manchester City's former midfielder Colin Bell is suing United by completed his £1m his old club over his sacking during the summer. He was dismissed as joint youth developto Germany - where he for- Farrell in a Maine Road endmerly played for Saarbrücken of-season purge which also saw and Eintracht Frankfurt - had another former player and the been delayed due to tax prob- club's youth team manager, lems. These have now been Neil McNab, relieved of his du-

Sir Bobby Charlton is set to ateur team in Manchester. The Celtic have learned that they former Manchester United and will not receive a fee for their England player has agreed to 11 October.

Moss Amateurs are a well-Fergus McCann, argued that, as respected team in the Man-Monaco is not part of the Eu- chester area and Sir Bobby ropean Union, its laws on free made his pledge when he met movement of workers should their manager, Billy Hughes, at



BASEBALL

Seattle's Buhner betters Baltimore home-run record

struck the 258th and his 40th, a 484- last season after getting 40 in 1995. foot power drive against Anaheim.

Ken Griffey Jnr hit his 55th in Oakdrive in the first off Allen Watson, Buhner became the 10th player to reach sixth, the Indians scored four in the the Blue Jays. Nerio Rodriguez, mak- Sox, who were officially eliminated but his 352 average still leads the AL

Seattle broke the record for most 40 in three consecutive seasons, the sixth, two in the eighth and two in ing his second start of the season, al- from the play-off race. Denny Hockhome runs by a team in one season first since Frank Howard in 1968-70. the ninth inning. on Tuesday night when Jay Buhner Buhner hit a career-best 44 homers

equalled the Orioles' 1996 mark when stunning comeback from a seven-run deficit, defeating the New York

Twenty minutes later, the second-The Cleveland Indians clinched handing Cleveland the crown. The in 2 2/3 innings and Randy Myers The Mariners broke the record set their third successive American Indians will face the AL wild card - struck out one in a perfect ninth for down the stretch and they earned last year by Baltimore. Seattle had League Central Division title with a probably the Yankees - in next his 44th save in 45 opportunities. week's Division Series.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

innings. Arthur Rhodes and Arman-

In Chicago, Brent Brede snapped In Toronto, the Orioles moved a fifth-inning tie with a two-run ninth inning. Trailing 9-2 in the League East with a 3-2 victory over earned a 5-3 victory over the White inning, his 34th. That was his only hit,

lowed two runs and two hits in 5 1/3 ing walked to lead off the fifth and one out later, Brede hit his third placed Chicago White Sox lost, do Benitez combined to allow one hit 'homer of the season and a 5-3 lead.

"Cleveland played their best hall their division win." the White Sox first baseman, Frank Thomas, said.

He provided Chicago's offense land on Monday. With his three-run Yankees 10-9 in the bottom of the closer to clinching the American homer as the Minnesota Twins with a three-run homer in the third

SPORTING DIGEST

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Opklend 6 Toras 14; Me-traules 7 Karsas City 4 (ass gains); Mentu-les 2 Karsas City 6 (ascord gains); Mentu-les 2 Karsas City 6 (ascord gains); Claveland (a) New York Verlanas 9; Detroit 6 Boston 0; Recrot 2 Edymon 3; Officego White Sox 3 Min-nesota 5; Seattle 4 Arshbalm 3. resous o; Sestite 4 Antinam 3 NATIONAL LEAGUE: Prilacelphia 0 Allanta 8; Namitres 9 Piezas 8; New York Meta 4 Pita-burgh 6; Houston 5 Chicago Cuba 5; St Louis 6 Chromaté 8; Colorado 7 Sen Prancisco 6; Los Angoles 6 San Diego 2

THESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Europeas Cup Group E: Get (sr) 107. Phondorf (Get) 71. Bel-grate (Yug) 72. Horved (Hun) 73. Positions (after two numde): 1 Bell 4(bit; 2:—Milen 3; Belgrade 3; London 3; Rhondorf 3; Honved 2.

BOWIS

BIROPEAN BOWLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
(Guerraver) First round: Indend (M. Johnston
and N. Grabern) by Juney (C. Syvers and D. Le
Marquand) & D. Warrey (C. Syvers and D. Le
Marquand) & D. Warrey (C. Syvers and D. Le
Marquand) & D. Warrey (C. Syvers and D. Le
Marquand) & D. Warrey (C. Syvers and D. Le
Marguand) & D. Grabern (D. C. Syvers and D. Le
Syrin (F. Cole and D. Solemen) 20. St. Guerravy
(G. Ricchou and A. Stong) by England (M. Price
and J. Bell 20.-2; Walets (A. Dishton and D.
Williams) to Guerrasy (B. Hultond and B. Shron)
Sel-Lineland (D. Karre and G. McCloy) to Spain
(G. Toamen and T. Plinty) 55-11; Boothond (J. Lindorse, and G. Adress) by Netherlands (J. Toemp
and W. Van Griebs) 35-5. (Spains (G. Selver and D.
22-15. Section (G. Sand D. Guerrasy) (R. Shron and
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(D. Fischoul by Spain (P. Cole and B. Bisman)
(D. Pinco and J. Sell, 2-3; Jensey (F. Warrey
and N. Grafton) by Wales (J. Warrey
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Guerr Thomas) 23-25, Jersey (C Syvret and D La Mer-quand) bt Netheriands (J Artiston and W Smit) 33-7; Jersey (S Dingle and C Renout) bt Netherlands (J Tromp and W Van Grabel) in 5; England (J Baler and B Montey) bt Spoth (C Toleman and T Piling) 18-2; Scotland (J Distri-donsa and G Advan) to Guarneys (B Hurton) and B Smony 18-8; Institut (D Karne and G Mc-Cloy) bt Wates (A Davison and D Vallaria) 19-12

Cricket

Peter Moores, who captained Sussex through one of the most turbulent seesons in the clubs 158-year history, will not be taking on the role next summer. Tony Pigott, the chief executive, yesterday confirmed that Sussex, who frished bottom of the County Championship and Sunday Legue, will be appointing a new captain, although he still wents Moores to play a part in the clubs fusions.

Sussex have appointed Dave Gilbert, the former Australian Test bowler, as deputy chief executive and director of cricket. He moves from Surrey where he was coach for two years, stearing the club to the Sunday League title and victory in the Benson and Hadges Cup. Matthew Maynard, captain of Glamorgan, is to lead an England representative team in a three-day Cricket Max' tournament in New Zealand from 31 October to 2 November. Cricket Max' is a shortened version of the representative concentrates on of the geme, which concentrates on accurate betting by awarding double points for hitting bells into 'zones' at each end of the ground.

Cycling
TOURI OF SPAIN 18th stage (183,7km, Binges to Valladelite) Landing positioner: Livin Jen (1845), Rabobank Syr Styris 20sec; 2 Librothard (P) Louis; 3 S College (I) Relic; 4 M Poccol (I) Sensitables, 5 C Cheppace; 30 Asion; 6,14 Gentler Accest (Sci Cheppace) 30 Asion; 6,14 Gentler Accest (Sci Cheppace) 30 Asion; 6,14 Gentler Accest (Sci Cheppace) 30 Asion; 6,14 Gentler (Sci Cheppace) 30 Position; 7 S D Pierri (I) Sensitables (Rai) 19th + 47 Asic; 7 S D Pierri (I) Sensitables (Rai) 19th + 47 Asic; 19th Pierri (I) S Pierri (I) Sensitables; 19th Accest (Rai) Landabert (P) College; 13 J Sensital (I) Sensitables; 19th Accest (Rai) Landabert (P) College; 13 J Sensital (I) Petrit; 17 F Cald (I) Sensitables; (Billians); 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 17 F Cald (I) Sensitables; (Billians); 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 17 F Cald (I) Sensitables; (Billians); 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 17 F Cald (I) Sensitables; (Billians); 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 17 F Cald (I) Sensitables; (Billians); 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 18th Bellin (I) Petrit; 18th Bellin (I) Research (I) Research (I) Research (I) Research (II) Research (I Cycling

Equestriamism
HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW (Westbley Aremal): Setton PPC Netional Grade C Champlematics 1 NeColet (I Flather) clear, 3498esc;
2 Ecarder (M latcOurt) clear, 3521; 3 Switt Caseler (K Doyle) & Built, 3521; Woodpacker Stantogs, Junior Nerscomers Champlonable; 1
Mapphys Git 8 (C Hel) clear, 2673; 2 Foam
Bay (I Wingswa) clear, 3074; 3 Smorthie (L
Stonmand) clear, 3082; Squilib and Davies
National Junior Feoductier Champlonable; 1
Sobbys Barden (S Marriel) clear, 3525; 2 Gm
tectry (C Hodgets) clear, 3326; 3 Starbound
(S Striit) clear, 3480.

Football
Greek footballers have threatened to disrupt the Greece v Denmark World Cup qualifier on 11 October by going on strike in protest at the growing influx of foreign players in Greece.
England have added Melwalls Justine Lorion and Stockport's Kate Massey to their squad for today's Women's World Cup qualifier in Germany.

BIGLAND WOMEN'S SQUAD (Weene's World Cup qualifier in Germany. Dessau, today's Steed (Arsemil, R Brown (Lherpool, G Costland (Donaster Beles), in Markey (Senton), S Brittos (Coydon), F White (Arsemil, B Beston, K Burks (Och Beston, H Powel, I Geston, K Powel, I Geston, K Powel, I Green (Loydon), S Britto (Dessay), R Wester (Coydon), I Cotton (Melwal Lloresce), R Vestay (Arsemil, J Lorion (Melwal Lloresce), R Vestay (Melwal Llores

Hockey MEN'S JUNIOR WORLD. CUP (Milton Keynes): Pool A: Netherlands 8 Cube 2; Australia 1 Spain 1; India 4 Belgium 2. Final pool standings: 1 Australia 1 Ipts; 2 India 10, 3 Spain 12; 4 Netherlands 7; 5 Belgium 4; 6 Cube 0 Pool B: Germany 4 Egypt 1; Fixel pool standings: 1 Germany 2 Egypt 1; Fixel pool standings: 1 Germany 2 Egypt 2; Fixel pool standings: 4 Argentine 8; 5 Jepan 3; 6 Egypt 2.

Alain Menu and the Williams Reneult team will defend their Auto Trader RAC British Touring Cer Chempionship ti-ties next year. Reneult UK Ltd have confirmed their partnership with Williams Touring Car Engineering will continue for a further two years until the end of the 1999 season.

Pools dividends BRITTENS: Troble Chance: 24pts 5172130, 23 51230, 22 5150. Four draws 5250. Fine twentys 51180. Eight homes 53640.

Rugby Union Portypridd, the Weish champlons, have failed to secure a home game with the Ali Blacks on 11 November. The New Zeelenders will stick with their original facture against Wales A, although officiels einessed their decision bed settling to de with Portypix recent though officials stressed their decision had nothing to do with Ponty's recent

Tennis CEAND SLAM CUP MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Musich) Singles, first round: P Refer (Aus) bt T Musice (Auf) 6-6-8-2. J Bjorfsman (Swe) bt B Backer (Ger) 6-3-8-2. P Korde (C2 Ren) bt G Nusren (Br) 6-3-6-8 (Russen reprint injured); P Sampras (US) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-4-3-6

6-2 P. LEPZIG GRAND PRIX WOMEN'S TOUR-MARTENT (Gentlery) Stogles, first round: A huber (Ger) bt S Ferins (f) 6-4 6-2 Y Besule (Indor) bt A Cocksesser (F) 7-5 6-3; M Hongle Saith bt M Mensies (Au) 6-3 7-8; S Appointment, (Bel) bt M Orestens (Heilt) 2-6 6-3 7-5.
TOULOUSE ATP TOURNAMENT (Frence) Singles, first meant: T Hass (Ger) bt O Operator (Lips) 6-4 8-2 A Colment (F) in D Princial (Ger) 6-4 8-4; I Roux (F) bt S Schallen (Neth) 7-6 6-4; F Santou (F) bt R Lewerpe (F) 3-6 7-6 6-1; G Repour (F) 3-5 7-6 6-1; G Repour (F) 3-5 7-6 6-1; G Repour (F) bt O Delater (F) 6-3 6-2; MEN'S CLAY COURT TOURNAMENT

7-9 6-1; G RECK, Pr) IX O DESIGNE (F) 9-5
5-2 MEN'S CLAY COURT TOURNAMENT
Bucharves, Rona, Singles, first rooted: C Moya.
(So) bt H Drestmann (Ser) 6-1-6-6-3; C Costa,
(Sp) bt H Moddown (Rom) 7-6-6-3; C Costa,
(Sp) bt H Moddown (Rom) 7-6-6-3; N Lapart1 (Exp) bt E Alvisec, (Sp) 6-4-6-3; A Gaudento
(p) bt J Alman (Sp) 6-6-4-8; F Romand (Gen) bt A
Parel (Form 8-6-8-2), C Costa, (Sp) bt J Restroy
(US) 6-4-6-1; M K Goelener (Gen) bt J Parel
(US) 6-4-6-2; A Notice (Rom) bt T Carriorie (St)
7-6-6-1; IA Materia (Sp) bt M Filippoles (Unit 6-2
6-3 Second rotand: M Coolener (Gen) bt C Ruad
Not) 6-2-5-7-6-2; F Casset (Sp) bt T Settrond
(Gen) 7-6-6-4; Simchory (Sp) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-6
6-4-6-7-5; C Costa (Sp) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-6
4-6-6-4

6S 4-6-7-5, C Costa (Sp) br C Maye (Sp) 6-0
4-6 8-4.
WISHILAK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
TOURNAMENT (Surphays, Indian) Singles,
text rousets N Magar | Languary br. | Mismar br. | US
6-4 6-3. Second round: S Phismate (PS)
6-4 6-3. Second round: S Phismate (PS)
6-4 6-3. Second round: S Phismate (PS)
6-4 6-3. Second (Sa) 1-3 -3 -6 -5. Nemaclosa (PS Rep)
br E De Lore (US) 6-1 3-0 ret; D Ven Procs (Be)
br M Sarki (Languar) 7-6 6-2
LTA SURMARER SATELLITE (Surdentend) Men's
singles, first round: A Premier (ES) br I hingor (LS) 6-1 6-2. N Gould (GS) br A Popp (Ger)
6-0 1-1 M Zahrbork (Bos) br A Poster (GS) 6-1 6-0;
C Vial (GS) br I 6-2. N Gould (GS) br A Popp (Ger)
6-0 1-1 M Zahrbork (Bos) br A Poster (GS) 6-1 6-0;
C Wal (GS) br I Green) br M Hitton (GS) 6-4 6-0;
C Wal (GS) br N Greenhouse (GS) -6-5 6-5;
C M Gregor: (Society br M Hongs (GS) 6-7
C Wal (GS) br C Bornari (GS) 6-1 6-2;
C Blancine (GS) br J Fox (GS) 6-1 6-2;
C Blancine (GS) br J Fox (GS)
br I Control (GS) 6-1 6-2;
C Blancine (GS) br J Drough (GS)
6-3 7-3 7-6; Wearter (GS) br N Involved
round: Lustiner (GS) br J Case (GS)
6-3 6-3 7-5 Women Text (GS) 6-3 6-3
N Exposure (Rs) br A Blancin (GS) 6-3 6-3
N Exposure (Rs) br A Blancin (GS) 6-3 6-3
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N Exposure (Rs) br A Blancin (GS) 6-3 6-3
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L Minchert (GS) br A Blancin (GS) 6-4 6-3;
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protected 2 (Suchessid R. Kowstorwy (Satury):
Potental 2 (Suchessid R. Kowstorwy (Satury):
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coca-Cole Cup
second round second lag: Burns 0 Middissbough 2 (agg. 0-2); Bury 1 Sunderland 2
(agg. 2-4); Peterburough 0 Reading 2 (agg. 02); Swelfaid Urd 4 Wattford 0 (agg. 5-1); Stockport 2 Barmingham 1 (agg. 5-5); Ringuay 0
(pswich 3 (agg. 1-4); Tammere 0 Mots Counby 1 (agg. 2-4); West Bromwich 4 Luton 2 (agg. 5-5); Stockport 2 Barmingham 1 (agg. 5-5); Ringuay 0
(pswich 3 (agg. 1-4); Tammere 0 Mots Counby 1 (agg. 2-4); West Bromwich 4 Luton 2 (agg. 5-5); Stock 1
(agg. 2-4); West Bromwich 4 Luton 2 (agg. 5-5); Stock 1
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RUGBY LEAGUE

Dug-out ban threat to coach

The Whitehaven coach, Stan Robert Roberts subject to pos-Martin, faces the possibility of sible disciplinary action after being banned from the touchline following last weekend's clash with referee Steve Presley. The League is looking into Martin's conduct during his side's Divisional Premiership semi-final defeat to Hull, and could bar him from the dug-out if he is found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.

Whitehaven's David Fatialofa and Graeme Hallas of Hull are already facing the disciplinary committee today over their sendings-off in the same The tackle that is likely to

keep Huddersfield's Nick Fozzard out of that match is also under scrutiny at Rugby League headquarters, with Keighley's

TODAY'S NUMBER

leaving his opponent with a bro-

ken nose and concussion.

8.2

The length of putt - in miles - by US Ryder Cup , player Brad Faxon on Monday. The feat took place on Concorde, the putt taking 23 seconds to drop, in which time the plane travelled 8.2 miles.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

7.30 urises stand
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aston Villa v Sheffeld Wednesday (70; Shotburn v Stuke (70, Frst Division: Note
Country v Coventry (70, Second Division:
Walsal v Scunthorpe (70)

Hockey WORLD JUNGOR CUP (Million Keynes) Send-linguis: India v Germany (SQ); England v Australia (SQ) Syllish phicase play-offic; Soeh v Argentina (SQ); Natherlands v Pali-bitan (1230).

Speedway INDIVIDUAL: Exists Northern Riders' Cham lonship Final (7.45) (at Shelfishir) Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopa v Leicester (70) Other sports

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FOOTBALL

Keegan back as Fayed's Fulham aim for the top

Kevin Keegan, Newcastle United's erstwhile manager, will return to football today by becoming the chief executive of Second Division Fulham.

Guy Hodgson reveals how the persuasive powers of the club's millionaire owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, and the promise of a large budget for new players proved irresistible.

In the press conference at his opening match as Newcastle United's manager, Kevin Keegan prefaced his comments with: "This is the first letter of the first word of the title of the book." A new chapter will begin today when he becomes chief executive of Fulham.

Yesterday the Second Divihub on the bank of the were being cov about ment, but the lack

on press spec-Gibb, a "When the ke any anse future of Club we will will come with ation today. .-old Keegan, who

te in January and impression of leavfor good, has sucthe persuasion of . s multi-millionaire ownhamed Al Fayed who is un-.rstood to be willing to bankroll substantial spending spree in

chester United of the south". There is a long way to go -Fulham are 11th in the Second Division – and the price will include the appointment of Ray Wilkins, Keegan's former England team-mate. He will be installed as the new manager over the head of Micky Adams, who, on a shoestring, steered the club to promotion last term.

in attempt to realise his dream

of making Fulham "the Man-

Adams' future at the club looked bleak last night when he failed to arrive with his team for the Coca-Cola Cup tie at Wolves.

Keegan became known as "the messiah" by Newcastle supporters after he had taken the club from one brink (going into the then Third Division) to another (the Premiership title). His departure eight months ago shocked football generally, but Tyneside was reduced to a state of near mourning. "It was my decision and my decision alone to resign," he said. "I feel I have taken the club as far as I can."

At the time it was felt that the financial binds imposed on him by Newcastle's impending stock market flotation was the reason behind his departure and it is ironic that he will return at the behest of the Harrods owner better known in City circles than football until he bought Fulham for £30m four months ago.

Keegan had repeatedly insisted he had no interest in returning to football, but last Friday he publicly admitted for the first time that he might come back if the right opportunity presented itself.

The challenge at Craven Cottage, at a club who have never won a major honour and who were last in England's top division 28 years ago, looks to have proved irresistible given the millions he will have to spend.

The chance to take the less up-front role of chief executive will also have appealed. Bright, witty and accessible to the press at the start of his time at Newcastle he had become tetchy to the point of becoming almost monosyllabic towards the end of his time on Tyneside.

Wilkins, a former England captain and now coach at Crystal Palace, will almost certainly be itching to get another chance in management after a difficult time a few miles away at Queen's Park Rangers.

"If any manager's job was offered, I would discuss my position with Steve Coppell (the Palace manager]," Wilkins said yesterday. "All I can say is that as far as today is concerned I'm at Crystal Palace."



Feeling the pressure: Kevin Keegan on the day he announced his departure from Newcastle last January

Tyneside sees former messiah take on Craven image

News that Kevin Keegan, regarded by Newcastle United fans as the messiah, should apparently be interested in returning to football with Fulham, albeit in

an executive role, was greeted with some surprise on Tyneside, as Simon Tumbull discovered.

When Everton paid a yuletide visit to St James' Park the season before last, those of us passing the Strawberry pub were handed a leaflet on behalf of the Welbeck Road Evangelical Church in Newcastle. It posed the question: "Is Kevin Keegan the Messiah?"

It did so in all seriousness, too, feeling the need to inform the congregation of St James': "Kevin Keegan may be Newcastle United's saviour but he is NOT God "

It was clear last night that Tyneside had got the message. It was not merely that the onetime messiah was about to assume a new Craven image. Eight months have passed since his mourned departure. Tyneside has simply learned to live

The Talk of the Toon was as much of the match in hand, and of beating Barcelona, as of Keegan's return to football. The Evening Chronicle led the front page with the story, but BBC Radio Newcastle ranked it No 5 on its lunchtime bulletin, behind a Northumberland man caught snatching eggs.

however, catch up with one man who has been idolized - if not deified - at St James' and who has succeeded in making Fulham Football Club something of a thriving Cottage industry.

Malcolm Macdonald, in fact, was the last manager to lead Fulham out of the bottom two divisions. "The club is sitting there waiting to be totally revitalised," he said. "I couldn't see Mohamed Al Fayed buying a small club to stay small."

Going back to the managerial days of Macdonald, in October 1982, it was at St James' Park that Fulham gained probably the most recent of their famous victories. Gordon Davies clipped the Magpies' wings in a 4-1 victory featured on Match of the Day. Keegan scored Newcastle's consolation goal.

He promised in those days that he would end his playing days by the banks of the Tyne and, true to his word, when he retired two years later it was to head for the golf course. After returning in 1992, Keegan always maintained he would never manage another club, not even Liverpool. There was not a little surprise on Tyneside that

he had, apparently, chosen to

take the reins of Fulham, albeit

in an executive role. "I must admit I didn't expect to see him back in football so quickly," Mark Jensen said outside the Strawberry, where he sells his fanzine, The Mag. *When he left here the reason given was that he was drained by football. It does seem a bit premature but I'm sure everyone here wishes him well."

Not quite everyone perhaps.

week that Keegan's forthcoming autobiography would not be stocked at any of Newcastle's club shops, a spokesman was quoted as pointing out that "the author" was no longer employed by the club. Mr G Smith, of Winlaton,

When it was confirmed last

writing to the Newcastle Journal, described the terse reference as "offensive, a disgrace and beyoud belief." Saying that if the club did not recognise the achievement of taking Newcastle from a joke club to one of international reputation, "there are tens of thousands who will correct that view."

That view - Typeside's reflective vision of the old messiah - may be in for more revision. Kevin Keegan: My Autobiography is expected to bite the hand that once fed.

GOLF: RYDER CUP Dejected Martin opts to go home

With one final poignant twist, the Miguel Angel Martin affair was laid to rest at Valderrama vesterday. A sad and dejected Martin decided to return home to Madrid, having come to the conclusion that being a non-playing 13th player on a team of 12 was not on.

After reading a statement in which he thanked the players and Tournament Committee of the European Tour, the Spanish PGA, and the media for their support, and wished Seve Ballesteros "all the success he deserves as captain of the European team", Martin suddenly said he had something to add.

He said: "I've come to Valderrama because I was invited to come by the Committee. But I'm leaving today because I don't feel like staying here for the Ryder Cup. I just don't feel the way I would in other circumstances. I'm sorry for everything that's happened and I'm going to go home."

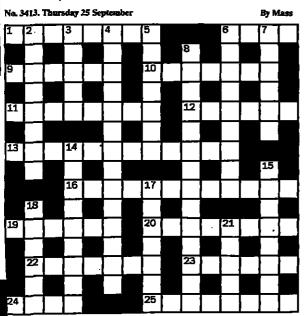
A look of shock came over Ken Schofield, the executive director of the European Tour, who had just read a statement saying: "Miguel Angel has been invited to attend the matches and related events in the capacity of non-playing member, and he has welcomed the chance to play this role."

Martin stayed at the team hotel on Tuesday. night, but did not go to the official welcome dinner. At a photocall yesteritay morning, two photos of the European team were taken, one with and one without the Spaniard.

Schofield said no extra compensation was being given to Martin, who qualified for the team but was dropped because of an injured wrist. But he would receive his ranking as a Ryder Cup player - which should gain him an exemption for the Open and the £3,500 expenses. ■ The two captains, Seve Ballesteros and Tom Nite. instructed their placers not to sign autographiat the gala dinner !

Furyk's task, page 30

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS Call for a drop outside Like a master veering, making for island (4) Book page in Sunday

Review? (6) 0 Wrong extract from speech (7) 1 Advise of account, outdated (8)

RA type depicting arm on Typeside river? (6) 3 Grief at error? Criminal gets the cooler (12) One of the house lights, 3 perhaps (5-7) Knight? Look out, it's a 4 sharp piece (6) Political group, new in the main, retrogressed

and closed (8)

:T/

22 Second bunk swung about, and the sea raged (7) 23 Like superlative wine? 6

cess (6) 24 The guy's in check (4) 25 Unearthly state deriving from quality of drink (non-British) (8)

> Glance, only a hint of interest in fancy cro-

> Noblè line spoken in verse (5) Beach suit mongst changing styles - not last of tangas? (7-7)

variation with the Queen (7)

in the City, not quite rolling (9) Finally had one in exture (6)

> 15 Misfortunes getting backs up (8) state line (7)

5 Sharp player's sudden Character with money

Beat up cooking mix-RAF's latest delicate instrument? (6-8) 14 What a mess! (9)

17 Roll from documentary about American 18 Dog, animal restrained

by stake (6) 21 Like an author's life, about second of biographies (5)

Top clubs' television income set to reach the sky

Top English football clubs already rake in huge amounts of money from television companies but, as Keith Weir explains, the pay-per-view revolution could make today's sums look tiny.

Premiership clubs could earn over £500m from television rights to live matches in the 2003/2004 season, a study released vesterday said.

Manchester United, Newcastle United and Liverpool, the armchair fans' favourites, will be the big winners as pay-perview coverage is introduced over the next few years, the report added.

Compiled by the sports consultancy Oliver & Ohlbaum and the business publishers Fletcher Research, the report said pay-per-view would generate some £280m annually for Premiership clubs by 2003/2004. Clubs would earn a further £240m from the continuation of a subscription service offering a package of 60 live games per season. That compares with the £135m the clubs receive from Sky Sports for such live rights this year.

By 2003/2004, around 2.5m households would be taking pay-per-view. This could boost Sky's profits by £100m annually, the report said. Sky, which now has six mil-

lion subscribers, is expected to develop pay-per-view coverage as part of its drive to get subscribers to sign up for the 200-channel digital service it plans to launch next year. The report said 18 million

people in England and Wales, a third of the population, consider themselves football fans. Seven million claimed to support Manchester United, Liverpool or Newcastle. England's big three are likely to cream off over 25 per cent of all pay television revenues by 2003/2004.

Proposals for a World Club Championship look unlikely to win backing from delegates of Uefa, the governing body of Eu-

ropean football, at a conference in Helsinki today. The idea of either an eight or 16-club world championship being held in an increasingly congested fixture list has largely met with a lukewarm response at best. The Uefa meeting, for national football authorities' presidents and general secretaries, ap-

pears set to reject the idea. Uefa is also unwilling to commit itself to the idea, which has most support in Asia and Africa, where member countries see it as a way for clubs to earn lucrative paydays against European or South American champion clubs.

Gerhard Aigner, Uefa's general secretary, who has helped prepare today's discussion document, has also questioned when any club championship could be played. The impetus for this has not come from Europe," he said yesterday, "and without European clubs it cannot really happen. Uefa does not think the time is right for this, but we must wait and see what the members think."

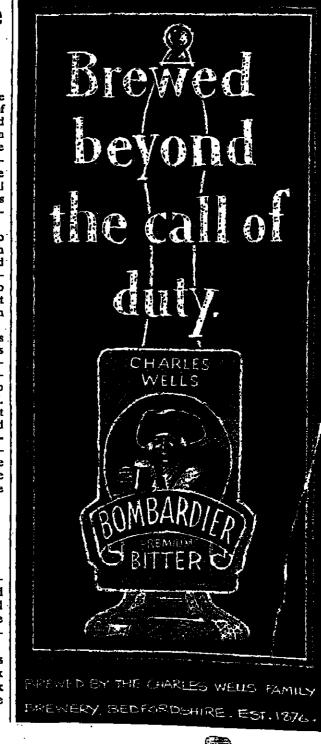
Ravanelli could make loan move to Spurs

Tottenham have refused to confirm that they are trying to sign up Fabrizio Ravanelli on a . Saturday's game against Wim-£42,000-per-week three-month loan deal, but his agent revealed that the Italian's striker's future is "24 hours" from being settled.

ager, Daniel Sugar, the son of The Spurs manager, Gerry the club chairman, Alan Sugar, Francis, struggling with an iniury crisis even though Chris before the Bolton game. If the unsettled Middles-Armstrong made his come-

back at Bolton on Tuesday and brough striker moves to Lon-Les Ferdinand could be fit for don, it seems that Spurs would take on his salary in a loan spell bledon, said: "I never talk about up to Christmas and then be other club's players." He was, given an option to sign him perthough, involved in talks with manently. Tottenham's operations man-Pino Paglari, Ravanelli's

representative, said: "I think there is something in it. I think we are about 24 hours from the



ing PLC, I Canada Square, Cenary Wharf, London E145DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St.